



ALBERTA BAND ASSOCIATION PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL OF BANDS 2026

Dear Band Director:

Enclosed please find your director's package for the 2026 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.

Please check your band's performance time

<https://www.albertabands.com/schedule1.html>


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). Enter at the northwest doors of the Arts Centre.

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. **NEW!** The Alberta Band Association recommends that participants come dressed for performance as there is limited access to dressing areas.
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.  To access food services please contact singh-pankaj@aramark.ca
6. Should you encounter any problems while travelling to the festival that might mean you will be delayed for your performance, please send a message to Joyce Howdle, Coordinator for the Festival of Bands Joyce@albertabandassociation.com
7. **Please label** your equipment and music with your school/band name.

Have a great festival!



ALBERTA BAND ASSOCIATION PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL OF BANDS 2026

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 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 (40 minutes Thursday & Friday week 2)

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 through **WeTransfer**.

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** your group is introduced to the audience. Total stage time must not exceed 30 minutes except for Thursday and Friday in week 2 where the total stage time must not exceed 40 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, 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 2026 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

NEW for 2026 - Please Note: Chairs, stands, podium, bass drum, 4 timpani, chimes, xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, 4 concert toms, gong, suspended cymbal, crash cymbals, snare drum and stand 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 that.

Each band is to provide its own beaters, chime hammers, mallets and sticks and auxiliary percussion.

Please ensure the equipment you bring is clearly marked and when you leave the performance area that you only take equipment that you brought.

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

4. Clinic - Arts Centre Studio B/C

30 minutes (40 minutes Thursday & Friday week 2)

In addition to each band being rated on 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 (40 minutes Thursday & Friday week 2)

1. In addition to a clinic with an adjudicator on the repertoire performed by each band at the festival, all Grade 2-5 bands will receive a Sight-Reading clinic, and all Grade I and IA level bands will participate in a Fundamentals clinic.

2.

Fundamentals Clinic for Grade 1 and 1A Bands

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

The components of the clinic will be as follows:

1. Play three major scales chosen from concert Bb, Eb, and F major, up and down in quarter notes without repeating the top note, M.M. 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 be able to choose which of the three scales will be performed. 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 3/4 or 4/4 time. The approximate tempo will be M.M. quarter note=84. This melody will be administered by the adjudicator.
3. Clap a rhythmic pattern, a maximum of 2 measures in length, while counting the beat and subdivision out loud (e.g.: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &) or using your regular classroom rhythm counting method. The pattern will be written in either 4/4 or 3/4, will include combinations of half,

quarter and paired eighth notes and quarter rests. Rhythmic patterns will be administered by the adjudicator.

4. Perform the prescribed Level 1 chorale – conducted by the teacher.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-Ysax1hOxfdxs4C8W1zmfjkareZhrCQo>

Sight-Reading Clinic Grades 2,3,4,5 Bands

The sight-reading portion of the festival will be adjudicated by a separate clinician. Each band will perform one selection from a list of possible choices provided, one grade level below the class entered.

After the director chooses a selection, Grade 2 and 3 bands will be given **five** minutes to prepare, while Grade 4 to 6 bands will be given **eight** minutes to prepare before performing the selection. Directors will be given **one** additional minute to organize and assign percussion parts and tune timpani before the timing starts. Preparation can include any techniques the director wishes **except** the actual playing of the instruments.

The Sight-Reading Clinician will take into account such criteria as rhythmic accuracy, note accuracy, tempi, balance, preparation for the reading, the overall effect of the performance and the general musicianship of the group in this sight-reading environment.

The director may give visual cues for rehearsal markings and repeats during the performance, but is not allowed to verbally prompt rehearsal markings, measure numbers, or repeats. 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

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:

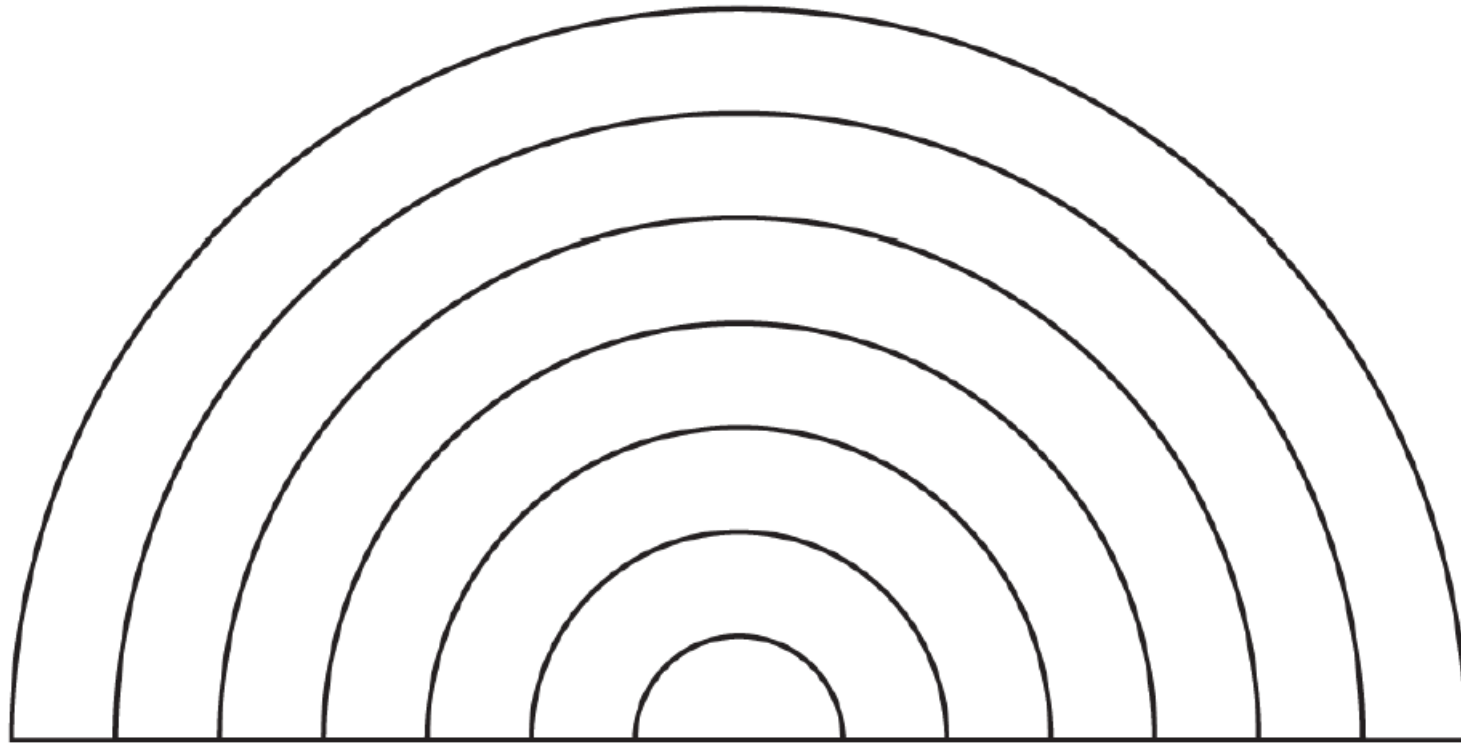
- **2 hours (Thursday & Friday week 2 – 2.6 hours)**

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

HAVE A GREAT FESTIVAL!

ALBERTA BAND ASSOCIATION FESTIVAL OF BANDS SEATING CHART

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



Row 1 Row 2 Row 3 Row 4 Row 5 Percussion

	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 Parking Map

If your bus(es) is parking on campus, please note that bus parking will be in **Parking Lot 20 & 26**.

Red Deer Polytechnic Parking Map

If your bus(es) are parking on campus, please note that bus parking will be to at the back side of **Parking Lot N**. This lot is in the West Student Zone.

