

PRESS RELEASE



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6,000 young musicians tune-up for 2007 MusicFest Québec Festival at Vanier College

Vanier College is once again in high gear as it welcomes 5,756 student musicians from all over Québec who are coming to Montréal for the 2007 Music Fest Québec Festival from March 20 to 23. This is the eighth consecutive year Vanier College turns over the excellent facilities of its music department during spring break to host the four-day event.

Over 120 student volunteers from Vanier and from local high schools help keep the day-long competitions moving along smoothly as the 129 bands, choirs, guitar ensembles, string orchestras and symphonic orchestras that are competing this year, file into the auditorium and perform. The average age of the musicians is 15 years old, but some are as young as eleven. They have come from as far away as Sept-Iles, Mont-Joli, Rimouski, Québec City, the Laurentians, and the eastern Townships. The largest group this year has 93 musicians in it and hails from Saint-Thomas High School in Montreal.

MusicFest Québec was started some twenty years ago when a group of dedicated music teachers decided to offer high school music students a unique experience. The idea of bringing together thousands of young musicians from all over the province evolved into Music Fest which is a competition with a difference: each ensemble is competing against itself and not against other groups.

Generally each musical group performs a maximum of three pieces of three to five minutes each. The festival is not a competition between the different performers. Instead each group plays in front of two adjudicators and is evaluated according to the quality of their own performance and the given criteria in the evaluation form. After the performance one of the evaluators meets with each group in a workshop and comments on the technique, interpretation and attitude of the performance. At the end of the process the jury attributes the performing group with one of the following mentions: Gold, Silver, or Bronze, and the musical director of the group receives a certificate attesting the mention obtained.

A large exhibition room where students can gather to try out different musical instruments and buy music scores and cds is always an interesting feature for everyone. MusicFest Québec is open to the public. Performances take place in the Vanier Auditorium (A250) and run every day from 9 am to 5pm, except the first day when performances begin at 10:30 am.

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