

PRESS RELEASE



CÉGEP
VANIER COLLEGE

821 Ste-Croix, Montreal, QC H4L 3X9 Tel: 514.744.7500 Fax: 514.744.7505 info@vaniercollege.qc.ca www.vaniercollege.qc.ca

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Vanier College to host MusicFest Québec for 9th Consecutive Year

Once again this year, the Vanier College Music Department will be welcoming over 6,000 students to its campus when it hosts MusicFest Québec for the ninth consecutive year.

From March 17-20, students from across the province, some from as far away as Rimouski, will be performing in symphony orchestras, string orchestras, concert bands, choirs and classical guitar ensembles. MusicFest Québec is an unusual competition because the idea is not to have groups compete against other music ensembles, but rather against themselves. The aim of each band or orchestra is to do the best it can and improve over its past performances.

Groups perform in front of a panel of judges who will award each group with a Gold, Silver or Bronze Mention.

After performing in one of three concert venues, students in over 130 ensembles are given a workshop by one of the judges, who comments on their presentation, and works with them on improving their performance. It's a unique opportunity for these groups to get expert outside comments and guidance on their playing and musical interpretation.

Nadia Turbide, Coordinator of the Vanier College Music Department is always impressed with the visiting students, many of whom later decide to study Music at Vanier. "We encourage and applaud their dedication, discipline and team spirit," she says. "We welcome them all to Vanier and wish them a successful festival."

For many schools, MusicFest Quebec is the highlight of their music program. The students have been preparing their performances since September and look forward to the trip to Vanier in March.

Following the workshop, each group gathers together for a souvenir group photo, then visiting students disperse to browse through the various displays of local music suppliers, have lunch, and sit in on other performances.

MusicFest Québec is a very big undertaking and takes place during spring break at Vanier College, when large classrooms and the auditorium are available for the 6000 visitors. As well, more than 100 Vanier and local high school student volunteers are involved as guides, security, program announcers and entertainers.

The panel of judges this year will include three Vanier teachers: Sylvie Allaire, violin, Christopher Best, cello, and Patrick Kearney, classical guitar.

Performances are open to the public. For information consult <http://www.musicfestquebec.com/index.htm>

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For information please contact:
Marguerite Corriveau, Vanier Communications Officer
Telephone: (514) 744-7500, ext. 7596
Email: marguerite.corriveau@vaniercollege.qc.ca