

PRESS RELEASE



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5200 young musicians at Vanier College for 25th MusicFest Quebec

During this year's March Break, more than 5,200 students will descend upon Vanier College for the 25th anniversary of Music Fest Québec from March 17-20. For the past 10 years this festival has taken place at Vanier College, which has the best facilities in Montreal for presenting multiple performances of symphony orchestras, string orchestras, concert bands, choirs and classical guitar ensembles.

For music students throughout Québec, Music Fest is the highlight of their year – a chance to come to Montreal and perform their music. This year 125 ensembles from schools across the province, including 10 ensembles from public and private Anglophone schools in the Montreal area will participate in the festival. Students ranging from eleven to eighteen years of age will come from as far as Québec City, Lévy, Rimouski, Mont Joli, Trois-Rivières, Tremblant, Bedford, Joliette and Drummondville.

To keep the day-long competitions moving along smoothly, over 100 student volunteers from Vanier and from local high schools, greet, organize, and guide the 125 performing groups to and from rehearsal rooms, performance halls, and workshops areas.

MusicFest Québec was started by a group of music teachers who wanted to offer high school music students a unique music experience by bringing together thousands of young musicians from all over the province. Their idea evolved into MusicFest a competition where each ensemble competes against itself and not against other groups.

Generally each musical group performs a maximum of three pieces 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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