



## Level One Festival Guidelines

1. The festival is geared toward students playing Level 1 music (syllabus below). **The Brandon festival will accept Level 2 groups if space permits. Priority will go to Level 1 entries which arrive by the deadline.**
2. Performance time will be between 8:40 am and 5:00 pm.
3. The festival will provide students with a variety of musical experiences. The usual sequence will include listening to two festival performances, warm up, performance, post performance adjudication/clinic, and Band Basics session. Participants will receive specific arrival and departure times. Total time at the festival will generally be between two and three hours.
4. A combine print and digital photo package will be available with your registration. Additional prints and files can be ordered at the festival directly from the photographer. More information can be found on the MBA website.
5. The following percussion equipment will be provided in the performance hall: Three timpani, concert bass drum, snare drum, xylophone, orchestra bells, suspended cymbal and bass amp. The clinic room will include a snare drum, concert bass drum and orchestra bells. **Note that some selections may call for percussion that is not provided.** *Performers should bring sticks, mallets and other percussion equipment.*
6. Each band should perform a choral of your choice or one of the chorales available online and 1-2 other selections. Please bring two original scores if your selection (s) is not on the list.
7. Bands are not graded but receive a written and recorded adjudication of their performance.
8. Following the band's performance and adjudication there will be a 20 minute Band Basics session. The Band Basics session will focus on further development of fundamental band skills of the ensemble. The clinician will consult the director prior to beginning the session to tailor the session to the students' needs and level. Percussionists will need a pair of mallets for this session. Students may be asked to:
  - a) Echo a five note melody by voice or instrument. The melody will be a maximum of two 4/4 bars, using up to the first five notes of a concert Bb major scale. The melody will be provided and administered by the clinician.
  - b) Play one or two scales (chosen and conducted by the director) such as concert Bb major, concert F major, concert Bb chromatic, concert G minor, etc. Split octave scales are permissible. Articulation at the discretion of the director. Percussionists should perform the scales on the mallet instruments.
  - c) Read a two-bar rhythmic pattern, using a counting system that is a familiar to the students (i.e.) counting out loud or clapping, etc.). The pattern will be written in 4/4 time and will include combinations of half, quarter, eighth, and dotted quarter notes and rests. Rhythmic patterns will be provided and administered by the clinician.
- 9) **NEW** The registration deadline this year is **November 13, 2019**. The date each paid entry is received is a significant scheduling consideration. Fees are made payable to the Manitoba Band Association, and are non-refundable after the Registration Deadline. All registration are now completed on-line only.



## Level One Festival Instructions

- 1) **Schedule** - A detailed schedule for your group will be sent about two weeks prior to the festival and will include your arrival and departure times. The performance time marks the start of three 20 minute sessions - performance, adjudication and band basics. Participants will move from the performance stage to a clinic room for their adjudication and Band Basics session. If your scheduled time poses a problem please call the MBA immediately. The director may make a schedule change with another director after contacting the MBA.
- 2) **Arrival** - Buses should pull up to the front doors or drop off point to drop off instruments & students. Students should remain on the bus until the band director has registered and a room marshal is ready to guide the group. Early arrivals could be asked to remain on the bus until their scheduled arrival time.
- 3) **Arrival and Departure Time** - Bands will be assigned arrival and departure times. *Call the MBA at 663-1226 beginning March 6 to make these arrangements.*
- 4) **Audience** - Each ensemble is encouraged to attend the performance of one or two other ensembles. Not only will this be educational for your students, it enhances the experience for the performers. There is a \$2.00/Adult charge for the public to attend the festival.
- 5) **Parking** – In Winnipeg (please see detailed map on website), on the CMU Campus please park on the north lot well away from and facing the North Building. Please note this is a fair distance from the south campus. Buses are asked to also move to the north lot after unloading as we cannot remain in the drop off locations.
- 6) **Parking** – In Brandon, buses are asked not to remain in front of the WMCA. Parking for cars and vans is available on Rosser Avenue (one block north of the WMCA).
- 7) **Scores** - Bring two original non-photocopied scores of your selections if they are not on the list. Please email your selections to the MBA office when the schedule is posted.
- 8) **Warm Up** - Each ensemble will have access to the warm up room for about 15 - 20 minutes.
- 9) **Chorales** - Each group is asked to perform one of the chorales posted at [www.mbband.org](http://www.mbband.org). The chorale is intended to demonstrate phrasing, tone, musicality, slow tempo, and a legato style. There is no need to bring a score of the chorale to the festival for the adjudicators.
- 10) **Instrument Storage** - You will be assigned a space to leave instrument cases and jackets. Please ask your students not to play their instruments in the storage area.
  - a. Be careful not to drag large instrument cases and percussion boxes across the floors.
  - b. Advise students not to bring valuables to the festival as the storage space is unsecured.
  - c. The MBA is not responsible for lost or missing items.

**11) Equipment On Stage** - Three timpani, concert bass drum, orchestra bells, xylophone, bass amplifier, crash cymbal stand (not cymbals), suspended cymbal & stand, and a snare drum will be provided in the performance hall. Performers should bring sticks, mallets and other auxiliary percussion equipment. Equipment in the clinic room will include 2 bell kits, 2 snare drums, concert bass drum, suspended cymbal, bass amplifier and crash cymbal stand. Clinic room set up can vary depending on the shape and size of the room.

- Brandon Chairs: Row 1 max 12, Row 2 max 20, Row 3 max 28, Row 4 max 36.
- Winnipeg Chairs: Row 1 max 13, Row 2 max 16, Row 3 max 20, Row 4 max 26.

**12) Photography** - Each group will be photographed on stage before moving to the adjudication room. Please listen to the photographer for a few simple instructions after your performance. Each ensemble will receive both a digital and printed copy of the photo from J.J. Ali Photography. Encourage your students to consider a purchase on site. More information is on the MBA website.

**13) Band Basics** - Following the band's performance and adjudication, a 20 minute Band Basics session will commence. Details of this session can be found on the guidelines above.

**14) Lunch** - Performances and clinics continue through the lunch hour. Students are encouraged to eat before arriving, or after departing.

**15) Band Profile** – Print a copy from the web site and present it with your conductor scores to the registration desk.

**16) Festival Phone Number** – (204) 880-5004

# LOF Questions & Answers

**Q. When should I register for the festival?**

A. The festival is scheduled on a first paid, first scheduled basis. If you have a scheduling request, you should register well before the deadline. If you are requesting a mid-day performance time your paid registration should be received in early fall. Typically 70% of the registrations are now received by mid November. Groups are also carefully scheduled by size to accommodate the room space available at the venues.

**Q. Can I request a specific performance time/day?**

A. Yes, though it is more helpful to list the times/days that don't work for you. Provide at least an 6 hour window when you can play (additional time is needed if you are requesting 2 groups on the same day). If you are sending your registration in January you may need to provide a larger window.

**Q. If my performance time is not suitable can I request a change.**

A. Yes, the director is asked to call the MBA to review options first. The director then calls other directors to request a switch. If both directors agree, the director initiating the change must advise the MBA before the deadline for changes. Ensembles of similar size are encouraged to switch first to ensure correct room size and accommodations.

**Q. Do I need to provide conductor scores for the adjudicators?**

A. Only if your selections are not on the festival syllabus. Bring two original (non-photocopied) scores to the festival.

**Q. Will the band receive a photograph.**

A. Yes, a picture will be taken of each group while on stage following their performance. Each school will receive a complimentary copy. Additional copies are available to the students. Visit the MBA website for more information.

**Q. Wouldn't a photo taken in an off stage location produce a better image?**

A. Yes. However, this would add 20 minutes to each group's stay, require a suitable photo room and would mean that groups would need to store their instruments for another 20 minutes. Adding 20 minutes would pose bussing problems for some and strain the space available for instrument storage. In addition, additional pace would need to be available and would need to be rented increasing costs.

**Q. What time should we arrive at the festival?**

A. If you will not be listening to groups prior to your performance, please arrive about 30 minutes before your performance time. Add 20 minutes for every group you wish to hear before you perform. Bands are assigned arrival and departure times. Call the MBA office (663-1226) once the schedule is posted to make these arrangements.

**Q. When do we depart the festival?**

A. About 5 to 10 after the end of your Band Basics session. If you wish to hear a group perform, you will depart 10 minutes later. If you wish to hear two groups perform your departure time will be 30 minutes later. Contact the MBA office to confirm these arrangements.

**Q. Are students permitted to listen to other bands.**

A. Yes. This is an important part of the festival experience. Confirm which groups you will hear when you call to book your arrival and departure times. It is recommended that students listen to a maximum of three groups.

**Q. Is the public permitted to attend?**

A. Yes, and they may also follow the band to hear the post performance clinic. Admission is \$2 for adults.

**Q. How much time will we have in our warm up room?**

A. Each group will have up to 15-20 minutes to line-up and tune before going on stage. There are chairs but no stands.

**Q. Where does a band store their instrument cases and coats?**

A. Each ensemble will be provided a space in the storage area in Winnipeg, or the Westman Auditorium foyer (Brandon) to store coats and instruments. While the space will be monitored, students should not leave valuables in this space.

**Q. Who adjudicates at the festival and how are they selected?**

A. Adjudicators at the festival are all Manitoba residents as we view this as an opportunity for educators to gain valuable festival experience. Candidates are solicited from the festival committee, the MBA Board of Directors and festival participants. Those whose name appears on multiple lists are invited to adjudicate.

**Q. Why is each group asked to perform a chorale?**

A. The intent is for the group to demonstrate phrasing, tone, musicality, slow tempo, and a legato style. The teacher may select one of the three chorales posted at [www.mbband.org](http://www.mbband.org) or their choice of another short chorale. The chorale will be played at the beginning of the performance. A score of the chorale does not need to be provided to the adjudicator.

**Q. What is the purpose of the festival?**

A. The festival is designed to be a first festival experience for young bands and to reinforce the fundamentals taught by their directors. Bands move through three 20 minute sessions - performance, adjudication and band basics. Teamwork, independence, behaviour, responsibility, and numerous other transferable skills are developed as a side benefit of participating in festival performances for the ensemble members.

**Q. Are second year bands allowed to participate?**

A. Yes. While Level 1A is intended for groups in their first year of instruction, Level 1B is geared more for groups in their second year of instruction. Some second year ensembles opt to perform in the 1A category. Third year bands are encouraged to consider Level 2 of the Optimist Festival. Use the syllabus to guide your decision as to which level or festival to enter.

**Q. Is the adjudication recorded or written?**

A. Both. One adjudicator will record their comments on a CD while the other will prepare written comments and offer the band a post performance clinic. A third clinician will conduct the Band Basics session following the post performance clinic.

**Q. Where does the post performance clinic take place?**

A. The clinic will take place off stage. It is important that when instructed, the band moves quickly and quietly to the clinic room so as to maximize the 20 minute clinic. The Band Basics sessions follows in the same room. Please review the instruction on the registration form on what to expect in the workshop/clinic and Band Basics session before coming to festival. Family and friends attending the festival that day, are welcome and encouraged to follow the ensemble to the clinic room to observe the workshop/clinic and the Band Basic sessions.

**Q. How will we know how to navigate the festival site?**

A. Festival volunteers will meet you at your bus and lead you through each phase of the festival.

**Q. Do adjudicators provide a grade for each performance?**

A. Adjudicators are asked to provide helpful, encouraging and constructive comments. No marks, grades, trophies or scholarships are awarded.

For further information, contact:  
Manitoba Band Association  
John Balsillie at (204) 663-1226  
[mbband@shaw.ca](mailto:mbband@shaw.ca)