

**KI** CONCERTS

*A world of Music*



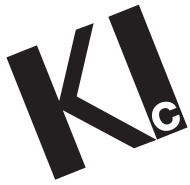
# Canadian Band Festival



with  
**Dr. Glenn  
Price**  
Festival Director

APRIL 2012

**FESTIVAL BRIEFING**



## **PARTICIPATING BANDS**

**Didsbury High School – 63 musicians**

Director: Kirk Wassmer

**Pioneer Middle School – 43 musicians**

Director: Kim Hastings

**River East Collegiate Wind Ensemble**

**– 26 musicians**

Director: Jeff Kula

**West Central High School – 38 musicians**

Director: Mark Friesen

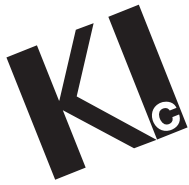


**DR. GLENN PRICE**  
University of Cincinnati

Dr. Glenn D. Price is recognized as one of the leading international conductors of today. He has conducted in over 20 countries on five continents, covering the gamut from professional chamber players to 450 piece string orchestra, symphony orchestras and wind ensembles to mass bands of over 1500 musicians.

A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, he pursued further conducting studies at the Toho Gakuen School of Music in Japan and the Tanglewood Music Centre in the U.S. as well as in Europe and Russia. As a Professor of Music at the University of Calgary, he developed the Wind Ensemble into an organization of international prominence. Their series of professional recordings are heard regularly on radio and serve as performance models for ensembles worldwide.

He was elected to the post of President of WASBE (World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles) following six years on its Executive Board, dedicated to the improvement of all aspects of the profession. courses at the Chamber Choir Festival in Sarteano (Italy), and the Yale Summer Festival in Norfolk, Connecticut. In 2010 he has conducting engagements in England, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Japan, and South America as well as his customary round of performances in the US, and he gathers together his own ensemble, the Simon Carrington Chamber Singers, for concerts and recordings.



*A world of Music*

## **GALA CONCERTS**

**Wednesday, April 11, 2012**

The Anvil, Basingstoke

7.30pm

**Friday, April 13, 2012**

Central Hall Westminster, London

7.30pm

# *A world of Music*

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## **Didsbury High School**

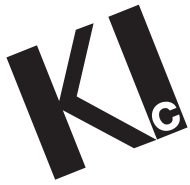
Director: Kirk Wassmer

Kirk Wassmer is Director of Bands at Didsbury High School, where he instructs courses in Concert Band, Jazz Band and Guitar. Approximately half of the school population at DHS is involved in music in some way. He has also taught at G. P. Vanier Secondary School in Courtenay, BC and at Revelstoke Secondary School. Groups under his direction consistently receive high accolades at provincial, national and international festivals. He is an active performer and clinician.

Kirk received his undergraduate degree at the University of Saskatchewan, and has a Master's degree in Wind Conducting from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He resides in Didsbury with his wife and two daughters.

Didsbury High School is located in Didsbury, Alberta, a rural community of approximately 3600 people. The High School has a population of 260 students; of this, almost half are involved in some facet of the Music Program.

DHS has a Grade 9 Concert Band of 38, Senior Concert Band of 91, and three Jazz Ensembles. The groups regularly travel to festivals across western Canada and the United States, including Whistler, Victoria, Edmonton, Seattle and Moscow, Idaho. In addition to their festival tours, DHS groups frequently play concerts in Didsbury and the surrounding region. The Music Program is a tremendous source of pride for the students, school and community.



## **Pioneer Middle School**

Director: Kim Hastings

Pioneer Middle School is in scenic Rocky Mountain House. Rocky Mountain House is located a 2 hour drive Northwest of Calgary (the site of the 1998 Winter Olympics) and is a prosperous, fast-growing community as well as a major centre for timber, agriculture, and oil and gas enterprise.

There are 400 students in Grade 6 through 8 at Pioneer Middle School, with 230 students enrolled in the band program. Band students have the opportunity to participate in two jazz bands, woodwind choirs, a solo and ensemble club in addition to the regular concert band program.

Mentorship is a strong feature of the music program at Pioneer Middle School. The students from West Central High School start the beginning band students in the fall of each school year. A "Tooter" program has been running for the last 10 years, students in Grade 8 provide individual instruction to the Grade Six students in the fall.

The band program at Pioneer Middle School is well known throughout the band community. Many students participate in both Junior and Senior Honour Bands. Over the last 15 years the program has received numerous awards.

The Pioneer School Grade 7 Concert Bands received the OUTSTANDING LEVEL I BAND at the Alberta Band Association Festival of Bands in 1996, 1999, and 2000. Bands from Pioneer School have received 20 SUPERIOR BAND awards from the Alberta Band Association Festival of Bands since 1996.

The Pioneer School Grade 8 Concert Bands were named OUTSTANDING JUNIOR HIGH CONCERT BAND at the 1998 and 2001 Alberta International Band Festivals, receiving the Calgary Herald Trophy on both occasions. The Pioneer School Grade 8 Concert Bands received GOLD awards at all appearances at the Alberta International Band Festival in Calgary (1998 - 2006). In 1998 the Pioneer School Grade 8 Concert Band was featured on the QR77 CD as the Outstanding Junior High Band of the Calgary International Festival.

In 1997, the Pioneer School Jazz Band received a GOLD award at Musicfest Canada held in Ottawa. In 1999, the Pioneer School Grade 8 Concert Band was invited to perform in Calgary at the Alberta Music Conference. The Grade 8 band was also invited to perform at the Alberta Music Conference at the Winspear Centre in 2003.

Students from Pioneer School have won over \$5000 at the Red Deer Kiwanis Festival in a combination of solo, ensemble, and band scholarships since 1993.

## **River East Collegiate Wind Ensemble**

Director: Jeff Kula

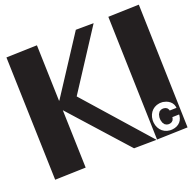
The River East Collegiate Wind Ensemble is comprised of Grade 10, 11 and 12 student musicians from River East Collegiate in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. They have had the great opportunity to commission, premiere and record new works for band by local composers Bruce Carlson, Sid Robinovitch, Jim Hiscott, Borisa Sabljic, Jerry Semchyshyn and Owen Clark. They have received numerous awards provincially, nationally, and internationally for their performances.

They have, on numerous occasions, performed in collaboration with other artists and ensembles in a variety of genres. The group was much honored to be selected as featured performers at the Centara Corporation New Music Festival where they performed a wind orchestra version of distinguished Canadian composer R. Murray Schafer's "Threnody."

Jeff Kula is currently the director of bands at River East Collegiate in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. His duties include directing the Grade 10 Concert Band, Grade 11 and 12 Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Combo, Contemporary Music Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble. He is also on faculty at the University of Manitoba's Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music where he has taught the Percussion Techniques course for the past five years. Jeff has a special interest in new music, and groups under his direction have had the opportunity to commission, premiere and record many works for symphonic band and from local composers such as Bruce Carlson, Sid Robinovitch, Michael Matthews, Jim Hiscott, Holly Harris, Borisa Sabljic, Jerry Semchyshyn and Owen Clark. Groups under his direction have received numerous awards provincially, nationally and internationally. Most recently, his Jazz Orchestra was selected as one of 15 finalists from North America to perform at the 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008 and 2011 Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition and Festival in New York City and was the first and remains the only Canadian ensemble ever to have this honour. In 2003 Jeff was also named Manitoba's "Jazz Educator of the Year."

Jeff is a percussionist and free-lance musician who plays professionally in his spare time. He has also served as an adjudicator and clinician at various local festivals and conferences.





## **West Central High School**

Director: Mark Friesen

West Central High School is located in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta (population 6200). The school houses a high school population of 600 of which 160 are in the band program in 3 concert bands, 3 jazz bands and several ensembles. The tour band is made up of grade 10 – 12 students who met once a week for 12 weeks to prepare for this trip.

Rocky Mountain House is located a 2 hour drive Northwest of Calgary (the site of the 1998 Winter Olympics) and is a prosperous fast-growing community as well as a major centre for timber, agriculture, and oil and gas enterprise.

Some important highlights for the bands from West Central High School include:

- ~ The Concert Band won the CBC's "Hockey Night in Canada Theme Song Contest". The band was selected from the recorded entries of over 100 bands from across the country and was featured on the national broadcast of CBC's Hockey Day in Canada.
- ~ The Concert Band has received the Outstanding Level IV Band Award at the Alberta Band Association's Festival of Bands.
- ~ The Grade 9 Concert Band has received the Outstanding Level III Band Award at the Alberta Band Association's Festival of Bands.
- ~ The Grade Nine Concert Band has been named the Outstanding Junior High Concert Band at Alberta International Band Festival.
- ~ The Concert band has been named the Outstanding Senior High Concert Band at the Alberta International Band Festival, receiving the St. John's Music/Yamaha Canada Adjudicator's Award.
- ~ The Concert Band and Grade Nine Band have both received gold awards at MusicFest Canada.
- ~ At the Heritage Music Festival in Seattle in 2004 and 2007, our bands received 3 gold awards as well as the Most Outstanding Concert Band Award, the Most Outstanding Band Program Award and the overall Sweepstakes Award
- ~ The Concert Band has been invited to perform at the Alberta Music Conference on several occasions



# PRODUCERS

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For over 30 years, **KIconcerts** (Kingsway International) has provided Choirs and instrumental ensembles with affordable and unforgettable international and domestic custom tours and festivals. KIconcerts combines unique destinations, awe-inspiring venues, warm audiences with renowned composers, educators, conductors and musicians. Together with our talented local concert tour organizers we facilitate a deep sharing of culture...the essence of performance travel.

Performance travel has always presented challenges requiring a myriad of details to combine in order for life changing magical musical moments to occur. This has never been truer than today. KI looks to partner with you in managing these challenges in new and creative ways.

Our recent clients have shared their views on our tours – have a look at [www.KIconcerts.com/testimonials/](http://www.KIconcerts.com/testimonials/)



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