

Student musicians show their stuff

BY STEVEN MAZEY, OTTAWA CITIZEN APRIL 1, 2011



Students in Le Prelude Concert Band from Ecole Elementaire Publique Le Prelude in Orléans, seen here in a performance last October, will be among competitors in this year's Kiwanis Festival.

Photograph by: Jamie Johnson

More than 10,000 Ottawa-area student musicians have been practising for months and are about to take to the stage to show listeners what they can do, at an event that has become an annual rite of passage for music students across the region.

Ottawa's 66th annual Kiwanis Music Festival opens Monday, April 4 and continues to April 30, with performances at 10 venues across the region, all open to the public.

Solo student musicians and singers as well as bands and school choirs will be competing for trophies and more than \$50,000 in scholarships that the festival presents, thanks to donors.

Some of the top-scoring students will be chosen to go on to provincial competitions. Competitors range from elementary-school age to university level.

Though not every student who takes part in the festival plans to pursue a career as a professional

musician, many pop and classical musicians credit their years competing at the festival with helping to build their confidence onstage and teach them what to aim for. Ottawa-area graduates of the festival include pianist Angela Hewitt, jazz pianist D.D. Jackson, countertenor Daniel Taylor, baritone Gerald Finley and mezzo-soprano Wallis Giunta, who is about to begin studies in the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

Admission fees for regular competition sessions are \$5 general, \$3 students and free for children under 12. Festival passes are \$20.

This year's highlights concert, featuring performances by some of the top-scoring musicians in the festival, will be held May 20 at Centrepointe Theatre.

For information, including schedules of performances and locations of the competitions, visit www.ottawakiwanismusicfestival.com.

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