

Register now for 93rd Kelowna Kiwanis Festival in 2019

11 stellar professionals coming to review performances including Anna Jacyszyn and Kornel Wolak!

December 3, 2018

The Kelowna Kiwanis Festival is a dance, voice and music event open to amateur performing artists that will run during March and April 2019, with a Gala Concert at the end of May. We are building on the success of the 2018 Festival with affordable registration fees and no fee increases over last year. Register online between December 1, 2018 and January 15, 2019 at KelownaKiwanisFestival.com.

Festival participation includes performance reviews by professional adjudicators from across Canada, opportunities for awards and scholarships, and the chance to represent Kelowna at provincials. Eleven highly acclaimed professionals are confirmed to adjudicate performances at the 2019 festival and a list of them is attached.

One exciting new adjudicator is Anna Jacyszyn who will be reviewing performances in the popular voice category. She is an award-winning jazz singer who has travelled extensively throughout England, Europe and Asia touring with various musicians. Jacyszyn grew up in Kelowna and has returned to live here, often performing at the Jazz Café she founded, in a variety of musical acts, and in her new-found interest: musical theatre.

Providing young talent with useful feedback that helps improve their confidence and voice is Jacyszyn's goal as a Festival adjudicator. "When I was young, I never really knew what to do with my talent. Now, I have the knowledge and experience of being in this business on so many levels. I feel I can give young talent honest answers of encouragement, while still being truthful," she said.

Another stellar professional coming from Toronto to adjudicate the woodwinds category is Dr. Kornel Wolak, Assistant Professor of clarinet at Queen's University. He's also a touring soloist and clinician involved in research that links clarinet playing and speech pathology and the founder of Music Mind Inc., an initiative that creates music education programs for schools and communities. "I'm excited to see what's going on in the Okanagan's woodwinds community," said Wolak. "There's always so much to learn at festivals like this for participants and adjudicators too."

Lucy Benwell, Executive Director of the Kelowna Community Music School, says securing Wolak as a festival adjudicator is a huge win for the Okanagan woodwinds community. "I'm thrilled to have a dedicated woodwinds adjudicator of Kornel's calibre at the festival this year along with a full day to focus on this important music category."

Last year's Festival provided thousands in awards and hosted 3,000+ participants, 5,000 audience members, and 1,000 volunteer hours.

The Kiwanis Festival, which is in its 93rd year, was founded as the Okanagan Valley Music Festival in 1926, as a one-day event. It became a tri-city event in 1936 with Kelowna, Penticton and Vernon taking turns hosting. The Kiwanis Club of Kelowna became the festival's main sponsor in 1980, changing the name to the Kelowna Kiwanis Festival and making Kelowna its permanent home in 1981.

Media inquiries

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Festival Categories & Dates

[Brass](#): Apr. 22
[Choral](#): Apr. 4-5
[Concert Band](#): Apr. 23-25
[Dance](#): Mar. 3-9
[Musical Theatre](#): Apr. 8-9
[Orchestra & Chamber](#): Apr. 15 (pm)
[Piano](#): Apr. 14-18
[Speech & Dramatic Arts](#): Apr. 3
[Strings](#): Apr. 14-17
[Voice \(Classical\)](#): Apr. 6-7
[Voice \(Popular\)](#): Apr. 10-11
[Woodwinds](#): Apr. 29
Gala Concert: May 31



Anna Jacyszyn



Kornel Wolak





2019 Festival Adjudicators

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| BRASS | Russell Whitehead - Alberta |
| CHORAL | Adam J. Con - Victoria |
| CLASSICAL VOICE | Mark Wells - Kelowna |
| CONCERT BAND | Russell Whitehead - Alberta |
| DANCE / BALLET & MODERN | David Beales - Victoria |
| DANCE / STAGE | Nola Antony - Alberta |
| MUSICAL THEATRE | Cathy Wilmot - Vancouver |
| PIANO | Yoana Kyurkchieva - Alberta |
| POPULAR VOICE | Anna Jacyszyn - Kelowna |
| SPEECH & DRAMATIC ARTS | Catherine Davies - Vancouver |
| STRINGS, CHAMBER & ORCHESTRA | Jeff Faragher - Nelson |
| WOODWINDS | Kornel Wolak - Ontario |

Photos and bios are available online at [Kelowna Kiwanis Festival](http://KelownaKiwanisFestival.com)