## **KELOWNA KIWANIS FESTIVAL**

### **News Release**

# Registration closing for 93<sup>rd</sup> Kelowna Kiwanis Festival in 2019

Don't miss the chance to perform, learn and grow like Megan Edwards did!

January 9, 2019

The deadline for entering the 2019 Kelowna Kiwanis Festival is fast approaching, so get your entries in online at <a href="KelownaKiwanisFestival.com">KelownaKiwanisFestival.com</a>. Registration closes January 15 for Dance entries and

January 22 for Music and Voice entries. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to challenge and develop yourself in your chosen performing art.

The Festival is 26-days of dance, voice and music events where amateur performing artists take the stage to perform, learn and grow. Festival participation includes performance reviews by professional adjudicators from across Canada, opportunities for awards and scholarships, and the chance to represent Kelowna at provincial and national events. All 12 Festival categories (see right sidebar) are open to the public and free of charge. The Gala Concert, which is a celebration of the Festival's highest-achieving performers, is a ticketed public event.

Megan Edwards is glad she entered the Festival last year. She became Kelowna's 2018 Festival winner in *Intermediate Musical Theatre* and represented Kelowna at the provincial event where she won top honours in the same category. She and many others progressed from the Kelowna Kiwanis Festival to become <a href="https://disabs/high-achievers">https://disabs/high-achievers</a> provincially.

Edwards, 19, is proud of her performance at her first-ever Kelowna Kiwanis Festival. "I feel great about how I did! I learned so much and had such an amazing time too. Of course there are little things that weren't planned, but no performance is ever perfect. I'm happy with how it all turned out," she said.

When asked what makes the Festival such a good way for amateurs to perform, learn and grow, Edwards explained how she benefitted from her own Festival experience. "It's nice to have the Kelowna Kiwanis Festival because it's a chance for me to work on my own personal skills when it comes to song selection and blocking. It's an opportunity for me to have my own say in how I act a song and to see what works and what doesn't.

With the support and generosity of last year's donors and sponsors, the Kelowna Kiwanis Festival distributed several thousand dollars in scholarships to Okanagan amateur performing artists. In 2018, the Festival hosted 3,000+ participants and 5,000+ audience members, and logged more than 1,000 volunteer hours. To become a Festival supporter, click the donate button at <a href="MelownakiwanisFestival.com">KelownakiwanisFestival.com</a>, or contact the Festival directly at perform@kelownakiwanisfestival.com or 778.581.8899 to select your sponsorship package.

The Kiwanis Festival, which is in its 93<sup>rd</sup> 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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Executive Director

### **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



Megan Edwards, 2018 Provincial Winner

