

Mount Allison Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion Weekend Brings High School Students From Across the Maritimes to Sackville

This weekend, February 3rd to 5th, the Music Department of Mount Allison University hosts a weekend devoted to Winds, Brass, and Percussion Instruments. Faculty coordinators James Kalyn and Linda Pearse have put together an educational and musical weekend for high school students that has surpassed all attendance expectations and speaks to the vitality of the University's Music program. The weekend will include individual lessons, master classes, talks on studying music at university, and a final concert to which the entire community is invited. Says James Kalyn, Assistant Professor of Single Reeds and Conducting, "the response to our Weekend of Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion, from across Atlantic Canada, has surpassed our expectations many times. Our dorms and rehearsal rooms will be full to bursting with young musicians wanting to work with the Mount Allison Music Faculty, and experience life at the University. The Conservatory will definitely be an exciting spot on campus this coming weekend! Besides the many participants in the classes and chamber music sessions, the public will be able to enjoy three concerts."

Elizabeth Wells, Head of the Music Department, and a co-coordinator of the Weekend, says that the Department has never had so many prospective Music students attend a weekend of this kind. "We have been overwhelmed with requests for the event, and have finally had to turn people away. Certainly we are planning next year's weekend with a view to accommodating even more motivated music students. This is a very special event in our year and we are thrilled with the positive response, which attests to our position as a top destination for music in the Maritimes. Meeting students from our program will be a highlight for these young musicians, who are always looking for role models."

Linda Pearse, Assistant Professor of Brass, says "We look forward to welcoming the Maritime's young musicians at Mount Allison this coming weekend. It is exciting to receive such an overwhelmingly positive response to our call! Students will not only receive lessons and coaching from Mount Allison faculty, but will also benefit from the chance to learn about what university life at Mount Allison is all about. They will surely enjoy meeting like-minded individuals and potential friends and colleagues from all over Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick."

The weekend opens with a recital by James Kalyn, clarinet, with Stephen Runge, piano, at 8 pm in Brunton Auditorium on Friday night. Students will be involved in musical instruction over the entire weekend, attending Simon Docking's piano recital on Saturday night at 8 pm in Brunton Auditorium. The Weekend culminates in a student concert at noon on Sunday at Brunton Auditorium. For more information, call (506) 364-2374.