

2026 AWARDS LIST

All award winners are chosen by the adjudicators and are not necessarily winners of classes. If you have been chosen as an award recipient, and/or have been chosen to perform in the Grand Concert, you will be contacted prior to the concert and asked to be in attendance that day. The Grand Concert participants are suggested by the adjudicators and the Festival Committee. The concert is programmed to provide variety and audience appeal and to recognize excellence.

The recipient is expected to use monetary awards to further their musical education.

To be the recipient of an award, a student must have a minimum of two memorized entries in solo classes in the same discipline and reside in the northwest quadrant of Alberta.

Perennial trophies are the property of the North Peace Performing Arts Festival Association. Recipients are responsible for returning trophies in sound condition before the following year's festival begins.

The adjudicator and the North Peace Performing Arts Festival committee reserve the right to not grant an award should an appropriate candidate not be found.

Band

Doug & Terri Proud Band Travel Award - \$200

Doug & Terri are long time residents of the Peace Country and appreciate the honour of encouraging young performers.

Choir/Choral

Kathy Gall Memorial Choir Award - \$200

Kathy was a dedicated teacher at Holy Family School in Grimshaw and poured her heart into music and choir, creating a spirited choir that shone at the North Peace Festival each year. The Kathy Gall Memorial Choir Award is given to a choir that exemplifies her high standard of passion, dedication, and love for choral work.

Instrumental

Chad & Barbara Shoaf Instrumental Award - \$100

Chad & Barbara have been involved in festival throughout the years that their daughter, Pyper Regner, participated in piano, voice, musical theatre, and speech. They are excited to support all performers in their pursuit of excellence.

Mody Family Memorial Instrumental Award - \$100

In memory of Rusi Mody, who played viola and violin with the Montreal, Edmonton and Bombay Symphony Orchestras.

Matt & Melody Taylor Instrumental Award - \$50

Melody is an avid school music teacher in Manning, AB, and participates in North Peace Festival yearly.

Junior Piano

Barkwell Enterprises – two awards of \$50

We are endlessly grateful to the Barkwell's for never missing a festival and for their incredible dedication to supporting the arts.

Bliss Family - \$50

While residing in Peace River, the Bliss Family pursued various disciplines and are thankful for the gift of music given to them through the Festival movement.

Catherine Whitney Memorial Junior Piano Award - \$100

This award is to honour the memory of Catherine Whitney, who loved listening to her great-grandchildren play the piano.

James & Sylvia Bunn Memorial Piano Award - \$50

James & Sylvia were long time residents and music enthusiasts, sharing a deep love for the arts, with James as a self-taught pianist and guitarist and Sylvia as a dedicated festival volunteer. Their family is proud to continue celebrating the next generation of talent.

Klassen Family Junior Piano Award - \$50

Madilynn Klassen (Brunham) dedicated many years to performing at the festival and deeply appreciated the time and effort it takes to prepare for each adjudication.

Senior Piano

Sally & Grant Barkwell - \$100

We are endlessly grateful to the Barkwell's for never missing a festival and for their incredible dedication to supporting the arts.

James & Helen Henderson Piano Award - \$100

We are deeply thankful to Jim & Helen for their steadfast support of the festival, especially as they cheered on their granddaughter through piano, voice, and every discipline she entered along the way.

Doug & Terry Proud Piano Award - \$100

Doug & Terri also recognize the time, effort, and passion that is put into practice to attain excellence.

Musical Theatre

Brennan Plumbing Musical Theatre Award - \$100

Tenielle Brennan poured her heart into the festival, dedicating a decade to voice and speech, relishing the thrill of each rehearsal and the bright reward of her steadfast passion.

Bobby Dodds Musical Theatre Comedy Award - \$100

Sponsored by the Lac Cardinal Regional Performing Arts Society, Bobby was a beloved musician and storyteller in the Peace Country, known for his witty verse and his joyful passion for inspiring children and youth in the arts.

Cheryl Carruthers Award - \$100

Cheryl has been a heartbeat of the festival, volunteering since its very beginning and always embodying its spirit.

Dr. Laurene Willox Award – two of \$100

In honor of Dr. Willox's mother, Doris Jones, who sparked her lifelong passion for music, Dr. Laurene presents two \$100 awards, celebrating that same love of music she inherited.

Jim & Anna Taplin Awards – two of \$75

Jim and Anna's two daughters thrived in piano, voice, and musical theatre at the festival, and in their honor, Jim & Anna are proud to offer two \$75 awards.

Doug & Terri Proud Musical Theatre Award – \$500

Doug and Terri, who have already generously supported a band award and a senior piano award, now continue their tradition by offering a musical theatre award, celebrating outstanding talent in the stage arts.

Vocal

Bliss Family Award - \$50

The Bliss Family now present a vocal award, celebrating a student who shows talent and commitment to musical growth.

Catholic Women's League Award – two awards of \$100

The CWL present two \$100 awards, recognizing students who exemplify dedication, a strong spirit of service, and encouraging them to pursue their goals with faith and purpose.

Audrey Dewit & Dan Mody Award - \$50

This award is given to a student who shows outstanding growth in their vocal discipline and is meant to inspire them to continue to reach their full potential.

Speech

Blanton Family Award - \$100

This award is presented for excellence in speech, encouraging students to develop their confidence, voice, and passion in communication.

Norm & Vivian St. Andre Speech Award - \$50

Norm & Vivian, devoted supporters for many years, are always there, wholeheartedly supporting and celebrating the arts in all its forms.

Peace Players Sr. Speech Award - \$100

Peace Players has been the heartbeat of live theatre in our community for over 50 years, proudly presenting three vibrant productions each year and fostering a deep love for the stage.

Doug & Terri Proud Speech Award - \$100

Doug & Terri have established this speech award, inspired by their passion, integrity, and unwavering follow-through, encouraging young speakers to deliver their best with purpose.

Ralph & Pamela Schipholt Award - \$50

Ralph & Pamela dedicated many years to the festival, as their daughter excelled in performances. Ralph also serves as the talented photographer behind our festival poster and program image.

Matt & Melody Taylor Speech Award - \$100

Matt & Melody expand on their support by offering a new speech award, building on the instrumental awards they generously gave before.

Special Awards

These awards will be announced at Grand Concert

The North Peace Performing Arts Festival Award of Excellence – Trophy and Award - \$100

This Trophy is presented to a student who has achieved a remarkable level of performance in two or more disciplines, with at least one being at a senior standard. This Award can only be received once.

Rotary Club of Peace River Music Education Scholarship - \$500

This award is a prestigious honor given to an outstanding intermediate or senior student, designed to help offset the costs of advance music training in their chosen discipline. Students must submit a letter of interest by the annual deadline, via email to northpeacefestival@gmail.com, detailing their planned course of study and aspirations.

Greg Corcoran Passion & Excellence Award - \$300

This award honors a gifted artist whose boundless talent graced countless instruments and his powerful voice. A longtime Peace Players member, both on stage and in the orchestra pit, and a conductor of award-winning school bands, Greg inspired generations through his passion, dedication, and love for music. This award recognizes a multifaceted performer who embodies Greg's relentless drive, thirst for learning, and a truly exceptional standard of artistry.

County of Northern Lights South Recreation Board Most-Promising All Round Instrumentalist – Trophy and Award - \$100

This award is provided by the Council of Northern Lights and presented to a student who demonstrates proficiency on two or more instruments.

Fairview Music Teachers Most Promising Adult - \$100

The Fairview and Area teachers created this award to celebrate and inspire adult learners, acknowledging their dedication and growth as they continue in their artistic journey.

Millership Family – Family Music Award - \$200

The Millership Family, passionate about family music, present this award to a group of family members performing together in any musical discipline, celebrating their unity.

St. James ACW Frank Richardson Memorial Duet Award - \$200

Since 1926, Frank Richardson was a devoted supporter of the festival; a gifted piano and organ teacher, he also served as organist at St. James Anglican Cathedral for 40 years.

Joseph & Linus Becher Memorial Award for Sacred Music - \$100

This award celebrates two devoted festival supporters who brought music to life, often gathering around a kitchen table or open fire. Linus dazzled with his fiddle and devoted himself to nurturing the next generation of musicians.

Marie Plazier Sacred Music Award - \$100

The Marie Plazier Sacred Music Award honors a remarkable homemaker, community builder, and dedicated leader. A volunteer with the Alberta Women's Institute and Associated Country Women of the World, she was a founding force behind the Crisis Line and the PR Women's Shelter. Twice invited to meet the Queen, Marie set a high bar and demanded excellence in all we do, especially in sacred music.