



**Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival – Annual General Meeting
General Manager Report – 2026 Summary – Submitted by Jaimee Jarvie
2026 Festival Growth and Success Report**

The 2026 Festival demonstrated growth and continued strength across all key performance indicators, reflecting the ongoing success of the festival and its increasing impact within our community.

This year, the festival achieved **990 registrations**, representing a 17.0% increase over 2025 and a remarkable increase of 348 registrations since 2023. Approaching the 1000 registration milestone is a significant accomplishment and highlights the growing reputation of the festival as a premier opportunity for music students, teachers, and performers throughout the region.

Participant numbers also reached a new high, with **2,856 participants** taking part in the festival. This represents an increase of 65 participants over 2025 and 372 more participants than in 2023. The continued rise in participation demonstrates strong engagement from schools, private studios, community ensembles, and families, confirming the festival's important role in supporting music education and performance opportunities.

Teacher involvement remained strong at **110 registered teachers**.

The 2026 results are particularly noteworthy because growth has been sustained over multiple consecutive years. After a significant increase in registrations in 2025, the festival continued to build momentum in 2026 rather than plateauing. This continued upward trajectory indicates that strategic planning, community engagement, adjudicator recruitment, teacher support, and festival operations are successfully meeting the needs of the community.

Beyond the numbers, the festival received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants, teachers, parents, adjudicators, volunteers, and audience members. The combination of increased participation, strong educational outcomes, and positive community response demonstrates that the festival is fulfilling its mission while continuing to expand its reach and impact.

Overall, the 2026 Festival can be considered one of the most successful festivals in recent history. The record participation levels, sustained teacher engagement, and long-term growth trends position the organization well for continued success and future development. The Board, volunteers, staff, adjudicators, and participating teachers should be recognized for their collective contribution to these exciting results.

2026 LethMSF Adjudicators

The 2026 Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival was privileged to welcome an outstanding panel of adjudicators from across Western Canada. Their expertise, professionalism, and commitment to music and speech arts education provided participants with valuable feedback, encouragement, and inspiration throughout the festival. The success of the festival is due in no small part to the time, care, and educational insight contributed by these adjudicators.

2026 Adjudicators

Bruce Cable – Choral & Composition

Lynne Dalcin - Junior Piano

Louise Dion - Accordion

Matt Groenheide - Percussion

Scott Henderson - Contemporary Commercial Music (Voice)

Annie Hergott - Handbells

Phillip Addis - Classical Voice

Adam Mailman - Band & Solo Instrumental

Joslin Romphf Dennis - Musical Theatre

Maxwell Gilchrist – Musical Theatre Alternate

Susanne Ruberg-Gordon - Senior Piano

Dr. Eduardo Solá - Strings & Chamber Music

Jilliane Yawney - Speech

Darren Young – Guitar

The festival extends its sincere appreciation to each adjudicator for sharing their knowledge, artistry, and educational expertise with participants, teachers, collaborative artists, and audiences throughout the 2026 festival. Their thoughtful evaluations and encouragement played a significant role in fostering artistic growth and maintaining the high educational standards for which the LethMSF is known.

2026 Scholarships and Awards

The scholarship and awards process was simplified this year through the creation of clear documentation and streamlined procedures, resulting in greater efficiency and consistency. These improvements contributed to a highly successful Awards Gala on May 22, which celebrated the achievements of festival participants and scholarship

recipients. With more than 500 attendees, the event received overwhelmingly positive community feedback, particularly regarding the quality of the program and the smooth execution of the evening. Thank you to Strudelbrand for providing the Red-Carpet experience for our third annual event.

2026 Successes

Several operational improvements and special events contributed to the overall success of the 2026 Lethbridge Music and Speech Festival.

The continued use of Signup Genius for volunteer coordination provided an efficient and effective system for scheduling and communication, helping ensure strong volunteer support throughout the festival. Thank you to the Volunteer Committee for their hard work behind the scenes in recruiting and organizing Volunteers.

The Hospitality Committee once again enhanced the festival experience by providing meals, refreshments, and gift baskets for adjudicators and volunteers, with many expressing appreciation for the care and hospitality they received.

The Stars of the Festival Concert was held at CASA, a new venue that offered professional sound and lighting capabilities and an enhanced audience experience. Feedback regarding the venue change was overwhelmingly positive from performers, families, and audience members alike.

Awards Night also saw exceptional attendance and engagement, with a large turnout of participants and families. Following the event, numerous families reached out to share positive feedback and gratitude for the recognition of student achievements and the overall festival experience.

2026 Alberta Provincial Music Festival

Congratulations to all 2026 LethMSF Representatives who participated in the Alberta Provincial Music Festival. The following participants achieved placement results:

First Place Winners:

U of L Alegre Singers – Choral
U of L Incanto Singers – Choral
LCI Chamber Choir – Choral
RVA Ensemble – Choral
St. Paul Grade 5 – Choral Speech
Eva Nieuwenhuis – Piano by Grade

Ethan Anderson – Musical Theatre
David Vanhell – Percussion

Second Place Winners:

U of L Conservatory of Music Lirjev Trio – Chamber Music
LCI Grade 9 Choir – Choral
Taisia Ceban – Composition
Isabella Xi – Speech
Makaylah Mtasi – CCM Vocal
Trudy Hughes – Musical Theatre

Third Place Winners:

Lev Zienchuk – Piano by Age
Nathan Morphis – Classical Vocal
Nathan Morphis – Musical Theatre
Isabela & Gabriel Morgado – Piano Duet
Birkley Cornish – Speech
Gemma Greep – Musical Theatre
Evan Sanden – Strings

The sense of community and mutual encouragement among Lethbridge representatives in Edmonton was exceptional to witness. Students and families alike showed outstanding support for one another across performances and venues.

2026 Canada West Performing Arts Festival

Congratulations to all 2026 LethMSF Representatives who participated in the Canada West Performing Arts Festival. The following participants achieved placement results:

Second Place Winners:

U of L Conservatory of Music Lirjev Trio – Chamber Music

Third Place Winners:

Trudy Hughes – Musical Theatre
Ethan Anderson – Musical Theatre