

CHORAL

VOCAL JAZZ

IN-SCHOOL

Prairie Spirit United Church

Winnipeg, MB

Tec Voc High School
Winnipeg, MB

Individual Clinics

Winnipeg & Surrounding Areas



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WELCOME TO CHORALFEST!

ChoralFest is an annual two-week, non-competitive festival that provides choirs and conductors the opportunity to work with choral and vocal jazz specialists from across the continent. The festival invites all levels and styles of choral singing. Over 100 choirs and 5,000 singers participate each year.

ChoralFest is open to all choirs; no matter a choir's level of experience, our clinicians work with each group at its own level.

Although ChoralFest is non-competitive, clinicians may recommend choirs to represent Manitoba at the national annual festival. MusicFest Canada.

FESTIVAL FORMAT

ChoralFest has something for everyone! Choirs of all styles and ages have the opportunity to learn, grow, and develop their singing skills and technique at ChoralFest.

Senior Years Choirs (Grades 9-12)

Senior Years Choirs choose between:

- Performance in pod system (up to three choirs) + two 20-minute clinics (from different clinicians): or
- 45-minute clinic at their school tailored to the choir's needs

Middle Years Choirs (Grades 5-8)

Middle Years Choirs choose between:

- Performance in pod system (up to three choirs) + one 30-minute clinic; or
- 45-minute clinic at their school tailored to the choir's needs

Early Years Choirs (Grades K-4)

Early Years Choirs in Winnipeg and surrounding areas receive a 45-minute clinic at their school, tailored to the singers' needs.

Community Choirs

Community Choirs perform in the pod system (up to three choirs), and afterwards receive two 20-minute clinics (from different clinicians).

Vocal Jazz Choirs

Vocal Jazz Ensembles perform in the pod system (up to three choirs), and afterwards receive two 20-minute clinics (from different clinicians).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Manitoba Choral Association is grateful to the individuals, organizations, and businesses for their support for and involvement in this year's festival:

Alexis Anderson of Tray Gourmet & Lisa O's Catering for providing meals

Nyle Hawrylyshen for equipment setup & transportation

Tec Voc Staff & Students for sound engineering

Long & McQuade for instrument and equipment rentals

St. James-Assiniboia School Division for providing choral risers

Roberta Landreth for program and banner design

Dave's Quick Print for program printing

The staff & members of Prairie Spirit United Church

The staff & students of Tec Voc High School

All the choral and vocal jazz clinicians

All the participating choirs, directors, collaborative pianists, choristers, and their families and friends

The Flagship Programs Committee and all the volunteers who make the festival such a success!



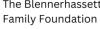
THANK YOU

to our generous ChoralFest 2024 sponsors & funding partners

















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Manitoba Choral Association is grateful for the opportunity to work on lands covered by treaties 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak, Anishininiwak, Dakota, and Dene Peoples; and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation. We acknowledge our responsibility to keep reconciliation and collaboration at the heart of all we do.

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Manitoba Choral Association's annual programs are made possible thanks to funding from:















CHORAL CLINICIANS



AMANDA CIAVARELLI (Winnipeg, MB)

Amanda Ciavarelli teaches elementary music and choir at École South Pointe School in Winnipeg, Manitoba. École South Pointe School choirs and Off ensembles perform many times during the school year at school assemblies, community events and concerts, at the Winnipeg Music Festival, and with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Amanda is a graduate of the University of Manitoba and holds a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education. She is a Level III Orff Certification graduate as well as a certified Carl Orff Canada Orff Levels Instructor. She is honoured to be a recipient of the Morna-June Morrow Award for Excellence in Education. Amanda is passionate about music education because of the important role music plays in the development and growth of children; fostering musicianship, teamwork, and communication while creating an opportunity for children to experience emotion and humanism through music.



GIUNG LEE 이기웅 (Winnipeg, MB)

GiUng Lee is a Korean-Canadian music educator and musician based in Winnipeg, Canada. Currently, he teaches grades 6-12 music at St. John's-Ravenscourt School, where he has designed and implemented a project-based music curriculum that emphasizes cultural relevance and fosters student creativity. As a choral leader, GiUng has served as the Artistic Director and Conductor of Prairie Voices, an award-winning youth and young adult community choir known for its dynamic and innovative performances. His work with youth and young adult singers is distinguished by a commitment to delivering choral music in fresh, engaging ways. GiUng holds a Master of Music in Choral Conducting and a Bachelor of Music in Voice from the University of Manitoba, along with a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia. His educational and artistic philosophy is rooted in three key principles: experience, community, and agency.



DR. MELISSA MORGAN (Regina, SK)

Dr. Melissa Morgan is a choral conductor, educator, speaker, and vocalist from Regina, SK. She is the Department Head of Music and Director of Choral Activities in the faculty of Media, Arts, and Performance at the University of Regina. Her responsibilities include conducting the auditioned Chamber Singers and the nonauditioned Concert Choir, in addition to teaching courses in choral conducting and serving on several university committees. Dr. Morgan is also the music director of the Campion College Musica Sacra music series. An active conductor, her choirs have performed and toured in Halls such as Lincoln Centre, New York and Cadogan Hall, London England. She is frequently asked to serve as a clinician and guest conductor with choirs throughout North America. Scholarly contributions of Dr. Morgan have appeared in the American Choral Directors Association publication, The Choral Journal, and the Canadian Music Educators Association Journal. Her publications also include articles in the peerreviewed Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Vol. 5, published by GIA Publications Inc. Currently, Dr. Morgan is focussing her writing efforts on an Open Educational Resource (OER) textbook that focuses on singing for emerging vocalist and actors. Dr. Morgan is also working on writing contributions for a new book which focuses on women composers. As a highly active scholar, Dr. Morgan presents her research at local, national, and international events. For more information about Dr. Morgan please visit her website: www.classicmel.ca.

CHORAL CLINICIANS



HEATHER NEUFELD (Winnipeg, MB)

Heather Neufeld has been teaching music in the St. James-Assiniboia School Division in Winnipeg for 20 years, having taught at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. She currently teaches Concert Choir, Vocal Jazz, Musical Theatre, and English at Westwood Collegiate, and directs the award-winning St. James-Assiniboia Divisional Junior Concert Choir. Throughout her career, Heather's choirs have received Gold standings as well as recommendations to the National Music Festival. In 2023, Heather was the recipient of the Michael J. Proudfoot Award, recognizing a conductor exemplifying a passion for excellence in choral work. Heather holds a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education from the University of Manitoba. As an accompanist, she has played for the Winnipeg Girls' Choir, the Irish Association, and various churches and schools throughout Winnipeg. She has performed with many choral groups, including the University Singers, ECCO, and numerous church choirs and small ensembles. Heather was the Director of the Winnipeg Girls' Choir for ten years, as well as an active choral clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor throughout the province. Aside from teaching, Heather enjoys spending time with her husband, Tim, and her four children.



VIC PANKRATZ (Winnipeg, MB)

Vic Pankratz's love of singing, conducting and teaching led to a long career at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate, and on stages and concert halls across western Canada. He received his formal training at Canadian Mennonite Bible College and the University of Manitoba. He also studied opera at the Banff School for Fine Arts. Vic was artistic co-director of The Winnipeg Singers for five seasons with Mel Braun and artistic director of Prairie Voices for five seasons. He has on numerous occasions conducted the Westman, Eastman, and Central Manitoba Youth Choirs, the Manitoba Provincial Senior Honour Choir, and the Louis Riel Senior Divisional Choir. He currently works with Dead of Winter as a member of the artistic team, leading and directing the Winter Sings concert. He has enjoyed a wealth of opportunities in music performance. Vic has done solo work with Robert Shaw and the Mennonite Festival Chorus, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, The Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir, Groundswell, the Winnipeg Bach Festival, the Regina Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonic Choir, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Pro Coro of Edmonton, and The Winnipeg Singers. He appeared in productions with the Manitoba Opera Association, Dry Cold Productions, the Edmonton Fringe Festival and The Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Besides a life filled with music making, Vic enjoys riding his bike year round and hanging out with his grandchildren, family, and friends.



BECKI THIESSEN (Winnipeg, MB)

Becki began teaching at Fort Richmond Collegiate in 2005, and built the Choral Program into a thriving, energetic community of students who love to sing together. Since then, Becki has been providing her students with a variety of musical experiences. Becki Thiessen loves being a part of the vibrant fine arts department dedicated to excellence at Fort Richmond Collegiate, and the Manitoba choral community. Becki loves gardening and hanging out with her family, friends, and cats.

CHORAL CLINICIANS



ROBERTA VELARDE (Winnipeg, MB)

Roberta's love for choir began by singing with her cousins in the dining room at the family farm, and on road trips when her dad would ask her, and her mom and sister to harmonize. She was actively involved in many musical events in the Interlake region including church choirs, music teams, productions, and choir at Stonewall Collegiate. Roberta grew up participating in the Rockwood Festival of Arts, and fondly remembers singing for adjudicators that would one day adjudicate her own choirs. Roberta graduated with a Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Education from Brandon University in 2012. She has been building the choir family at West Kildonan Collegiate since 2014, working with a variety of music ensembles including Chamber Choir, Vocal Jazz, Concert Choir, and Musical Theatre. While working on her undergrad degree, Roberta directed a community choir in Hartney, MB. She has been invited to conduct the Westman Youth Choir, and Central Manitoba Choral Association's High School Choir Workshop, and served as Manitoba Choral Association's Professional Development Chair for many years. Currently, Roberta is completing a Master of Music in Choral Conducting at the University of Manitoba. Roberta shares the role of Artistic Director of Ecco Singers, after having sung with this Winnipeg-based ensemble for almost a decade, and has learned through all these experiences that singing is a great tool for building bridges and connecting communities.



ALISA WIEBE (Winnipeg, MB)

Alisa Wiebe was born and raised in Winnipeg in a family home filled with music. She took piano and violin lessons from a young age and found her musical niche when she joined choir. She holds a Bachelor of Musical Arts from Canadian Mennonite University and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Manitoba. Alisa teaches choir, vocal jazz, and fiddle at Collège Garden City Collegiate. In addition to her teaching, Alisa conducted the Pembina Trails Voices Ragazzi and has sung with The Winnipeg Singers and Polycoro. She has enjoyed opportunities to be a clinician and guest conductor around the province. In addition to making music, Alisa loves to read a good book, explore forests, and check out new playgrounds with her two young daughters and husband.



VOCAL JAZZ CLINICIANS



DYLAN BELL (Winnipeg, MB)

Juno-nominated Dylan Bell's musical curiosity has kept him effortlessly crossing and blurring musical boundaries. Dylan is a mainstay on the Canadian music scene, having sung with many of Canada's premier vocal ensembles, including the beloved a cappella quartet Cadence, and the innovative live-looping duo FreePlay. When he's not singing, he plays with world-music ensemble Autorickshaw and freelances as a keyboard player, bassist, Stickist and guitarist. Behind the mixing board, Dylan has produced or engineered several awardwinning albums, including a Juno co-nomination as Best Engineer for the Cadence album "Twenty For One," "Ferris Wheels" with the world-renowned Swingle Singers, and the a cappella legends The Nylons' final Juno-nominated album, "Skin Tight." Dylan's work as a composer and arranger has garnered international recognition, as winner of the John Lennon International Songwriting Competition and numerous Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards. When it comes to vocal arranging, Dylan wrote the book... literally. His major work "A Cappella Arranging" (co-written with Deke Sharon) was published by Hal Leonard Music in 2013 to international acclaim, and their followup book "A Cappella 2.0: The Next Level" was published in 2024. Dylan is also in demand worldwide as an instrumental teacher and vocal/choral clinician. Visit Dylan at www.dylanbell.ca.



STACEY NATTRASS BROWN (Winnipeg, MB)

Stacey Nattrass Brown is a choral and vocal jazz educator in the Seven Oaks School Division in Winnipeg, where she has taught at Garden City Collegiate for the past 25 years. Her ensembles perform at a high level and consistently receive recommendations to MusicFest Canada. Stacey has previously adjudicated for the Middle Years and Senior Years portions of Choralfest and has been a guest clinician in the Eastman and Central Manitoba choral regions. Stacey is in demand as a vocalist, frequently appearing with the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra and performing anthems for the Winnipeg Jets. She is excited to hear all the wonderful vocal jazz groups from across Manitoba and looks forward to sharing some of the knowledge she has collected over the years.



SUBA SANKARAN (Winnipeg, MB)

Suba Sankaran is a Dora Award-winning, thrice JUNO-nominated world/fusion artist who effortlessly combines musical worlds. She has performed worldwide with Autorickshaw, master drummer Trichy Sankaran, and FreePlay (with her husband, Dylan Bell), among others. Performance highlights include performing for Peter Gabriel, Nelson Mandela, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and performing with Jane Siberry, Lorraine Segato, Bobby McFerrin, and the Swingles. Suba is in demand as a choral director, arranger, composer, and educator. She has created music for theatre, film, radio and dance, including collaborations with Deepa Mehta, the CBC, Stratford and Shaw festivals, and the debut of her original music at the Barbican Theatre in London as part of Why Not Theatre's Mahabharata production. June 2024 marked the world premiere of Suba's "Blue Skies, Red Earth, Tall Pines" nine-song suite commissioned by Jumblies Theatre, bringing together community poetry and stories around the theme of border crossings. Suba was recently awarded the 2023 Johanna Metcalf Performing Arts Prize and the 2023 Kathleen McMorrow Music Award. www.subasankaran.com

November 18-28, 2024

EARLY, MIDDLE, & SENIOR YEARS CHOIRS

In-School Clinics

Roberta Velarde, Alisa Wiebe

Collège Miles Macdonell Collegiate Choir
Echo (Isaac Brock School Concert Choir)Nedra Chase
École Lansdowne Choir (Grade 4)Breanna Heinrichs
École Templeton School Choirs (Grades 1-2)Julia Gibson & Annabelle Drajicevic
Governor Semple Choirs (Grades 3-5)
Kildonan East Collegiate Concert ChoirJanet Isaac-Martens
Morris School ChoirAinsley Wray
Norquay Falcons (Norquay Community School, Grades 2-5)Larissa Hrabi
Norquay Eagles (Norquay Community School, Grades 4-7)Larissa Hrabi
Pinkham School ChoirKatie Prescott
River East Collegiate Concert ChoirNicole Ens
Springs Christian Academy Choir (Grades 6-12)Heidi Poetker
Winnipeg School Division Middle Years Choral CelebrationSonya Williams





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July 13- 19: Vocal Jazz



July 26 - 29: Adult Community Choir, Women's & Men's Barbershop

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Monday, November 18, 2024

SENIOR YEARS CHOIRS

Prairie Spirit United Church

GiUng Lee, Dr. Melissa Morgan, Vic Pankratz

9:00 am Pod 1	
Kelvin High School Concert Choir	Jill Kooymans
Collège Garden City Collegiate Chamber Choir	Alisa Wiebe
West Kildonan Collegiate Grade 9 Choir	Everett Fristensky
10:50 am Pod 2	
W.C. Miller Collegiate Junior Choir	Jody Friesen
Linden Christen School Grade 9/10 Choir	Kim Neufeld
Collège Garden City Collegiate Senior Choir	Stacey Brown & Alisa Wiebe
LUNCH	
1:00 pm Pod 3	
Steinbach Christian School Grade 11/12 Choir	Michael Summerville-Dueck
W.C. Miller Collegiate Senior Choir	Jody Friesen
Steinbach Regional Secondary School Grade 11/12 Choir	Kristel Peters
2:50 pm Pod 4	
Westgate Mennonite Collegiate Concert Choir	Johanna Klassen
Maples Collegiate Chamber ChoirPhilip La	patha & Cynthia Peyson Wahl



Green Valley School Choir......Vern Neufeld

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

SENIOR YEARS CHOIRS

Prairie Spirit United Church

GiUng Lee, Dr. Melissa Morgan, Vic Pankratz

9:00	am	Pod	1
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Fort Richmond Collegiate Senior Choir	Becki Thiessen
Sargent Park School Grade 9 Choir	Annelie Reimer
Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School Choir	Andrew Coombs

10:50 am Pod 2

Garden Valley Collegiate Senior Choir	Melanie Urichuk
Landmark Collegiate Junior Choir	Melanie Friesen
Linden Christian School Vocal Ensemble	Kim Neufeld

LUNCH

1:00 pm Pod 3

Tec Voc High School Concert Choir	Sarah Sommer
Steinbach Regional Secondary School Grade 9/10 Choir	Kristel Peters
Steinbach Christian School Grade 9/10 Choir	Michael Summerville-Dueck

2:50 pm Pod 4

Maples Collegiate Grade 10 Choir	Philip Lapatha & Cynthia Peyson Wahl
Glenlawn Collegiate Concert Choir	Alanna Roscoe
Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute Senior C	Concert ChoirScott Reimer



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Wednesday, November 20, 2024

SENIOR YEARS CHOIRS

Prairie Spirit United Church

GiUng Lee, Dr. Melissa Morgan, Vic Pankratz

9:00 am Pod 1	
Sturgeon Heights Collegiate Concert Choir	Avonlea Armstrong-Green
Dakota Collegiate Junior Concert Choir	Justin Odwak
Fort Richmond Collegiate Grade 9/10 Choir	Becki Thiessen
10:50 am Pod 2	
Tambre (St. Thomas Aquinas High School)	Lenard Whiting
Landmark Collegiate Senior Choir	Melanie Friesen
Dakota Collegiate Senior Concert Choir	Justin Odwak
LUNCH	
1:00 pm Pod 3	
•	Saatt Daiseau
Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute Intermediate Concert Ch	
Gordon Bell High School Senior Choir	Kelsey Shiaro
École secondaire Sisler High School SopAlto Choir	Carolyn Boyes
2:50 pm Pod 4	
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute Concert Choir	Jana Zens
École secondaire Sisler High School Bass Clef Choir	Carolyn Boyes



Vox Anima Chamber Choir (Fort Richmond Collegiate).....Becki Thiessen

Thursday, November 21, 2024

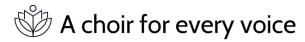
SENIOR YEARS CHOIRS

Prairie Spirit United Church

Dr. Melissa Morgan, Vic Pankratz, Becki Thiessen

9:00 am Pod 1 Maples Collegiate Senior Choir......Philip Lapatha & Cynthia Peyson Wahl Colla Voce (West Kildonan Collegiate)......Everett Fristensky Westwood Collegiate Concert Choir......Heather Neufeld 10:50 am Pod 2 Collège Garden City Collegiate Grade 9 Choir......Stacey Brown & Matthew Knight Garden Valley Collegiate Junior Choir......Melanie Urichuk Steinbach Christian School Chamber Choir.......Michael Summerville-Dueck LUNCH 1:00 pm Pod 3 Collège Garden City Collegiate Grade 10 Choir......Stacey Brown Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute Chamber Singers......Scott Reimer Steinbach Regional Secondary School Chamber Choir......Kristel Peters 2:50 pm Pod 4 Maples Collegiate Grade 9 Choir.....Philip Lapatha & Cynthia Peyson Wahl





École secondaire Sisler High School Chamber Choir......Carolyn Boyes

Friday, November 22, 2024

SENIOR YEARS & COMMUNITY CHOIRS

Prairie Spirit United Church

Dr. Melissa Morgan, Vic Pankratz, Becki Thiessen

9:00 am Pod 1	
Collège St. Norbert Collegiate Concert Choir	Michelle Archibald
West Kildonan Collegiate Senior Choir	Everett Fristensky
10:50 am Pod 2	
John Taylor Collegiate Concert Choir	Erin Thorleifson
École Heritage Senior Choir	Liane Ouimet
Pembina Trails Collegiate Senior Choir	Adriane Kumka
LUNCH	
1:00 pm Pod 3	
Linden Christian School Senior Choir	Kim Neufeld
École secondaire Oak Park High School Concert Choir	Matt Neufeld
Collège Stonewall Collegiate Concert Choir	Kendra Obach
DINNER	
6:15 pm Pod 1 (Community Choirs)	
Louis Riel School Division Treble Choir	Justin Odwak
True Harmony	Self Directed
Louis Riel School Division Senior Concert Choir	Justin Odwak



Saturday, November 23, 2024

COMMUNITY CHOIRS

Prairie Spirit United Church

GiUng Lee, Dr. Melissa Morgan, Becki Thiessen

9:00 am Pod 1

St. James-Assini	iboia School Division Senior Concert Choi	rAvonlea Armstrong-Green
Winnipeg Youth	Chorus - Coda	Garth & Lisa Rempel
Winnipeg Youth	Chorus - RhapsodyJo	orrel Camuyong & Melanie Spulnick
10:50 am Pod 2	!	
Hanfeng Choir		Yunjia Ling

LUNCH

1:00 pm Pod 3

St. James-Assiniboia School Division Junior Concert Choir.......Heather Neufeld St. James-Assiniboia School Division Children's Concert Choir......Jewel Casselman







West Kildonan Collegiate



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Saturday, May 3, 7:00 pm West End Cultural Centre

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Tuesday, November 26, 2024

MIDDLE YEARS CHOIRS

Prairie Spirit United Church

Amanda Ciavarelli, Heather Neufeld

10:00 am Pod 1

École Seven Oaks Middle School Grade 6 Choir B	Elizabeth Hallas-LaRue
After Eights (École secondaire Sisler High School)	Carolyn Boyes
Melville Comprehensive School Choir	Reed Wishnevetski
11:35 am Pod 2	
Edmund Partridge Community School Grade 6 Choir	Tim Friesen
John W. Gunn School Choir	Jorrel Camuyong
École Seven Oaks Middle School Grade 6 Choir A	Elizabeth Hallas-LaRue

Edmund Partridge Community School Grade 7/8 Choir......Tim Friesen

LUNCH

1:45 pm Pod 3

Steinbach Christian School Grade 5-8 Choir	Albert Bergen
Linden Christian School Grade 8 Chorus	Janna Reid



Wednesday, November 27, 2024

VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLES

Tec Voc High School

Dylan Bell, Stacey Nattrass Brown, Suba Sankaran

9:00	am	Pod	1
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Garden City Swing (Collège Garden City Collegiate)	Stacey Brown
Vocal State of Mind (Westwood Collegiate)	Heather Neufeld
DMCIce (Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute)	Graham Dion & Jana Zens

11:00 am Pod 2

A Twist of Lime Ladies (Linden Christian School)	Kim Neufeld
Wired (Westgate Mennonite Collegiate)	Johanna Klassen
GC Groove (Collège Garden City Collegiate)	Stacey Brown

LUNCH

1:15 pm Pod 3

GC Mix (Collège Garden City Collegiate)	Matthew Knight
DMCI Chill (Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute)	Graham Dion & Jana Zens
Baby Sugar (Maples Collegiate)	Cynthia Peyson Wahl & Philip Lapatha

3:15 pm Pod 4

Maple Sugar (Maples Collegiate)	Cynthia Peyson Wahl & Philip Lapatha
Showtime! FRC Vocal Jazz (Fort Richmond Collegiate))Becki Thiessen
A Twist of Lime Men (Linden Christian School)	Kim Neufeld



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Thursday, November 28, 2024

VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLES

Tec Voc High School

Dylan Bell, Stacey Nattrass Brown, Suba Sankaran

9:00 am Pod 1

CSNC Vocal Jazz (Collège St. Norbert Collegiate)	Michelle Archibald
In the Heights (Sturgeon Heights Collegiate)	Avonlea Armstrong-Green

11:00 am Pod 2

John Taylor Collegiate Vocal Jazz	Erin Thorleifson
Nova (W.C. Miller Collegiate)	Jody Friesen
Vocal Verve (West Kildonan Collegiate)	Everett Fristensky

LUNCH

1:15 pm Pod 3

Vocalease (River East Collegiate)	Nicole Ens
VOX (Gorden Bell High School)	Kelsey Shiaro
JazzAM! (École secondaire Sisler High School)	Carolyn Boyes



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