



44th Anniversary - 2025

Kiwaniis Music Festival of Guelph

Welcome to the 44th annual Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph.

Many thanks to our participants, adjudicators, visitors, donors and sponsors, organizers, volunteers, Board and Committee members, media guests, and venues. We look forward to another wonderful Festival and hope you enjoy this valuable contribution to the cultural life of Guelph and Wellington County.

Please remember that the performers need absolute silence and you must wait to enter or leave the hall until there is a break in the performance. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices. Photos and videos of performances may be taken if the performer has given their permission, but no flash photography and absolutely no recording of the adjudication is permitted. Please remain in your seat and be discreet while recording.

Please join us for the Highlights of the Festival Concert & Awards Ceremony
on Saturday, May 10 at St. George's Church at 7 pm.

It will feature some of the finest performances heard during the Festival,
as well as the presentation of medals and scholarships.

Tickets: \$20/Adults, \$5/Students & Children – Visit gkmf.ca/events

Guitar Adjudicator

Joel Saunders

With a fingerstyle technique that mesmerizes audiences and a talent for reimagining classics, Joel Saunders is a standout guitarist and singer/songwriter based in Guelph, Ontario. Blending intricate fingerstyle artistry with jazz training and pop sensibilities, Joel creates music that is both explorative and timeless, featuring original compositions and a repertoire of covers spanning nearly a century.

Joel's career is marked by numerous accolades, including winning two music scholarships, earning a degree in music from the University of Guelph, and securing 4th and 3rd place finishes at the prestigious Canadian International Fingerstyle Competition in 2016 and 2017, respectively. He has received a grant from the Ontario Arts Council for music composition, been featured by the acclaimed label Candyrat Records, and highlighted in music blogs and podcasts such as *Minor 7th*.



As a versatile artist, Joel performs regularly throughout the GTA as a solo musician and with various ensembles. When not on stage, he teaches music online and works as an audio and video producer from his home studio in Guelph.

Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph

Friday, April 4, 2025 - Afternoon
THREE WILLOWS UNITED CHURCH
Adjudicator - Joel Saunders

1:00 PM CLASS G182

Popular Ensemble - Intermediate

Own choice of two or three pieces at current level being studied.

1. SpARTanS Acoustics

Emily Peterman - Guelph

1:25 PM CLASS G178

Popular - Solo - Junior

Own choice of one piece at current level being studied.

1. Kingston Groen - Guelph

2. Aaron Rogerson - Guelph

1:45 PM CLASS G177

Popular - Solo - Intermediate

Own choice of one piece at current level being studied.

1. Dexter Boyd - Guelph

2. Harry Ji - Guelph

2:05 PM CLASS G176

Popular - Solo - Advanced

Own choice of one piece at current level being studied.

1. Michelle Li - Guelph

2. Holt Briden - Guelph

2:25 PM CLASS G173

Finger Style - Junior

Own choice of one piece at current level being studied.

1. Adhrith Arun - Guelph

2:35 PM CLASS G110

Concert Group - Grade 2

*Own choice of two contrasting pieces or two movements of a larger work.
Time limit of 5 minutes.*

1. Julian Henighan - Guelph