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MUSIC

# ‘The best young musicians’: MusicFest Canada brings thousands of performers to Niagara Falls

“You can guarantee that in 10 or 15 years, some of these kids will be on bigger stages and making careers of it,” says Chorus Niagara artistic director and conductor Kathleen Allan.

May 10, 2026   



Performers from Chorus Niagara are among the thousands of young musicians attending the annual MusicFest Canada national finals in Niagara Falls this week.

Lauren Garbutt

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## **NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW**

By John Law Reporter Niagara Falls Review

Niagara Falls will be swarmed by thousands of musicians this week as MusicFest Canada brings its 54th annual national finals to town.

More than 100 performances are scheduled for the six-day event, which is being held in Niagara Falls for the third time in nine years.

Among local performers will be the Ridley College Symphony Orchestra, Chorus Niagara and the A.N. Myer Vocal Ensemble.

“It’s a huge deal,” says Chorus Niagara artistic director and conductor Kathleen Allan. “Because it brings together literally thousands of students and participants from all across the country.”

Allan, who is an adjudicator for the event, performed in the festival in Ottawa as a Newfoundland high school student and recalls the impact it had.

“It was a really formative experience for me. I was in all the bands, all the choirs, and it was one of the really big school trips that has lasted in my memory forever.

“So now as an adjudicator at the festival and as a conductor for Chorus Niagara ... it’s exciting to be coming full circle and be participating in the year that it’s in Niagara Falls.”

Founded in 1972, MusicFest Canada is now the largest educational music convention in the country. It gathers singers, musicians, choral groups and adjudicators in a different city every year, though in recent years it has mainly been in Ottawa, Toronto and Niagara Falls.

An estimated 240 groups and 8,000 participants will attend this week, which Allan says will create a “buzz” in the city.

“Canada’s future of music will all be there,” she says. “You can guarantee that in 10 or 15 years, some of these kids will be on bigger stages and making careers of it.

“These are the best young musicians in the country.”

The festival runs Monday to Saturday. For a full schedule of shows and performers, go to [www.musicfest.ca/festival](http://www.musicfest.ca/festival).



*John Law is a Niagara Falls-based reporter with the Niagara Falls Review, primarily covering arts and culture.*

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