

Provincial Performing Arts Festival will showcase local talent

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Dancers, singers, musicians and speakers from across the province will descend on Fort St. John next week.

The Provincial Performing Arts Festival is being held in the city from May 31-June 4, and will be a chance to see a very high calibre of talent.

Festival Chair Margaret May has been working towards the event for some time now, and can't believe it's almost here.

"I'm excited and nervous because it's all of a sudden becoming very real," she said.

"It's going to bring a lot of really great performers into town, there's something for everyone and it's all going to be very entertaining."

She says it's also a good opportunity to showcase the town, as performers are coming from all over B.C. who oth-

erwise may not have come to the Peace Region.

Fort St. John has several delegates—both first time and repeat performers slated for the festival—mostly in dance, but also one in piano. There is also a slate of observers, who are selected to take workshops with adjudicators and watch the performances during the festival.

One of these delegates is Ashlyn Taylor, who is no stranger to the festival. She has been to the provincial festival three times, the first as an observer, but as an actual competitor last year and now this year.

"It's really cool that it's in my hometown and I don't have to travel," said Taylor, 13, whose favourite type of dance is ballet.

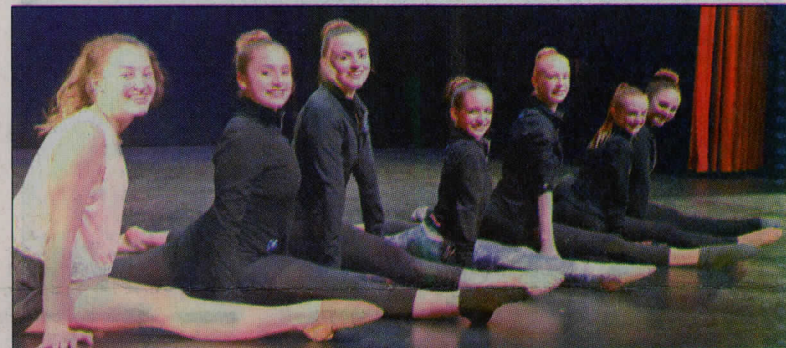
Another dance delegate is 16-year-old Elan Miller-Jeannotte, who has been dancing for most of her life and is a

three-peat delegate to the provincial festival. She says she's looking forward to getting more experience.

"It's sometimes intimidating because there's such a high caliber and we live in such a small town, you don't necessarily get as much experience as other bigger cities do," she said. "I'm not expecting anything, I'm going because of the experience is really good to get more advanced."

The public can take in any of the performances going on around town, as well as several concerts. There's the opening concert on May 31 to open the festival, the provincial highlights concert on June 2, the Dance Final on June 3, and on June 4 will be the National Final, which is the kids that have won the national classes and are going to go on to represent B.C. at nationals.

"They are the best of the best;



those are the top performers in every music discipline will be on stage at that one," said May.

FORT ST. JOHN PROVINCIAL DELEGATES/OBSERVERS

Intermediate Piano

Wesley Kao Phan
Observer
Rachelle Troyer

Strings Observers

Esther Li and Emily Cui

Dance

Ballet I: Hailie Towns

Alternate: Haley McNiven

Ballet II: Ashlyn Taylor

Alternate: Mackenzie Gosling

Ballet III: Ellie Fraser

Alternate: Amy Bazin

Stage I: Abby Taylor

Alternate: Jordyn Krezanoski

Stage II: Ally Dietz

Alternate: Emily Cui

Stage III: Elan

Miller-Jeannotte

Alternate: Takisha Johnson

Modern II: Abby White

Alternate: Darcee Mora

Modern III: Morgan Mora

Alternate: Ashley White

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016 B5



ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

Provincial Performing Arts Delegates in dance are Abby White, Ashlyn Taylor, Ally Dietz, Elan Miller-Jeannotte, Morgan Mora, and in the front, Hailie Towns and Abby Taylor.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Wesley Kao Phan, who was a delegate in piano at last year's Performing Arts BC Provincial Festival.

Volunteers needed for performing arts fest

FORT ST. JOHN — The biggest arts festival held in Fort St. John since 2001 returns this spring 2016, but organizers can't do it all on their own and will need more than 100 volunteers.

The Performing Arts BC Provincial Festival, held last year in Powell River, is expected to host more than 400 participants from across the province.

"Very excited to be having it," said Margaret May, spokeswoman for the event. "It really is quite amazing, the level of performance that you'll see."

Participants in the provincial competition must qualify at their local festivals, May explained, which means the "top performers from across the province" will show Fort St. John what they've got.

The festival takes place from May 31 to June 4 and will feature performances morning, noon and night.

"(There's) dance, and all kinds of music disciplines like piano, there's voice, there's classical voice, there's musical theatre, string (instruments)... there's instrumental,

there's chamber groups, and there's dance, which is divided into ballet, stage and modern," May said.

Adjudicators will be brought in, and participants will complete workshops and perform in front of them in venues across town.

May estimates that more than 100 volunteers will need to step up to make this year's festival a success, and says that help is needed as soon as possible.

"We need people now, that are willing to put in time ahead of the festival, and then we'll need a lot more people that have some time to put in during the festival, because we'll need people to sit at admission tables at all these venues, and help in those ways," May said.

"So a wide range of commitment level, depending on what you've got time to do."

Anyone interested in helping out can contact Margaret May at mecaversmay@shaw.ca.

JAN 16, 2016 —Bronwyn Scott

Performing Arts BC
PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL
Fort St. John 2016
May 31-June 4

FESTIVAL CONCERTS

**May 31: Free Outdoor
Opening Concert**

JUNE 2 BC'S BEST!
Provincial Highlights
Evangel Chapel

JUNE 3 ENCORE!
Dance Final & Music Winners
North Peace Cultural Centre

JUNE 4
NATIONAL FINAL
North Peace Cultural Centre

See details at: www.prn-performingarts.com



PERFORMING
Arts
BC

**FESTIVAL
VENUES**

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| NP Cultural Centre | • Dance |
| Mennonite Church | • Senior Piano |
| Baptist Church | • Junior Piano |
| Evangel Chapel | • Strings & Chamber |
| Evangelical Mission | • Strings & Chamber |
| Mormon Church | • Classical Voice |
| Alliance Church | • Musical Theatre |
| Presbyterian Church | • Vocal Variety |
| Lutheran Church | • Brass & Woodwinds |
| Baptist Church | • Guitar |
| Evangel. Chapel | • Speech Arts |

Concert Tickets available at the
North Peace Cultural Centre
250-785-1992 www.npcc.bc.ca

BC's Best: \$15.00
Encore!: \$20.00
National Final: \$15.00
3 Concert Pass: \$45.00

Festival Session Pass:

Only \$10.00

Pass to all regular festival sessions
at all 10 venues
Festival Pass does not include concerts

For Festival Information & Schedules, visit
www.prn-performingarts.com
or www.fsjarts.org

Fort Nelson News Tunnel, 2016