

## BAND AND INSTRUMENTAL - JOHN EVANS



During thirty-two years of teaching in the Cowichan and Qualicum school districts, John Evans, University of Victoria, BMus (trombone), UVic MEd (conducting), has taught choir, concert band and jazz band at the middle and secondary school levels. His groups have competed at regional festivals and Musicfest Canada. He has enjoyed traveling with young musicians numerous times in Canada and the United States. He also has considerable experience playing trombone in orchestras, concert bands, jazz bands and chamber music groups. He continues to enjoy playing and is looking forward to working with the bands at the qathet Festival of Performing Arts.

## DANCE – SHAWNA SLOAN



Born and raised in Campbell River, Shawna Sloan had a deep dedication and talent for dance that led her to train extensively from an early age, where she received the Banff School of Fine Arts Scholarship and numerous Dupree and Tremaine Dance Center Scholarships. At the age of 18, this former BC provincial winner received a dance scholarship at Tremaine Dance Centre in Los Angeles, California. Since then, she has performed with such singing sensations as Justin Timberlake, Michael Jackson, Britney Spears, and Eminem.

Her credits include the

MTV Video Music Awards, various music videos, industrials, and commercials. She served as the assistant choreographer with many great projects and worked with Britney Spears on her 2012 World Tour. She also served as the dance captain in Europe performing in the musical production of Grease.

She has owned and served as the artistic director of Campbell

River DanceXtreme Inc. for the past 17 years.

Her creative talent and vision have won her numerous top overall and best choreography awards. Most recently, she was awarded the Shine Mentor Award for the second time, which symbolizes professionalism, dedication to their craft, and community.

She continues to inspire dancers by teaching, choreographing, & adjudicating in both Canada and the United States.

## **SPEECH ARTS – KATHY BLOOMFIELD**



Kathy Bloomfield was born and raised in Victoria BC and attended the University of Victoria in the Education program.

Her first teaching position took her to the Prince George district of northern British Columbia. Teaching first in the town of Mackenzie and then moving to Prince George in 1988.

Drama was always a strong focus in her classroom. Poetry and plays and even operettas rounded out the curriculum whenever possible.

It was while living in Prince George that teaching speech arts became a passion. She taught many group and private classes at her Paintbox Kids home studio. Summers saw her co-directing and producing many years of Bard in the Yard summer drama camps.

After 36 years of teaching children she retired to Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island

where she continues to adjudicate festivals and encourage and inspire youth in the dramatic arts.

## STRINGS – SARAH POON



Sarah Poon is a music educator, performer, conductor, and freelance musician much in demand on the Sunshine Coast and Lower Mainland. As a child, she began her musical studies on violoncello, studying with Mary Fisher in Toronto, then John Doerksen in North Vancouver, and finally with Eric Wilson at the University of British Columbia. It was during her undergraduate years at UBC that she fell in love with playing early music and played both baroque 'cello and viola da gamba.

Sarah is the director and head instructor at Grace Notes Music Studio, teaching cello, piano, and viola da gamba. She also directs several small ensembles, including a youth string ensemble, a viol consort; and the Coast Messiah Orchestra, a community chamber orchestra dedicated to performance of Baroque masterworks.

As an adjudicator, conductor, and clinician, Sarah has worked with Powell River Festival of the Performing Arts, West Vancouver

Youth Band Strings Divisions, Suncoast Concert Band, Coast Chamber Strings, Coast Youth Strings, and more. Additionally, Sarah is a faculty member for the Viola da Gamba Society of America's annual workshop, Conclave, and the Canadian Renaissance Music Summer School's western workshop, both taking place this summer.

When not teaching or making music, Sarah enjoys puzzling, reading, watching Doctor Who, and tending to her jungle of houseplants in Gibsons amidst life with her musician husband David and their four busy children. She is delighted to return to Powell River for the 2024 Festival.



## VOCAL & CHORAL – ADELE CLARK



Adele Clark's teaching and performance experience spans over 35 years. After obtaining her Bachelor of Music degree at the University of British Columbia, she completed her Master's degree with a major in Opera Performance. She served as assistant to the Director of Opera studies at UBC where she also taught voice. An acclaimed performer she enjoys a successful performing career.

Her private studio was established in 1991.

Many of Adele's students have gone on to post-secondary education in music, professional performing careers and, most importantly, many have had a lifelong relationship with music.

The constant challenge of staying current in vocal pedagogy and performance practices is very exciting to her. Thanks to the shutdown in 2020 she finally caught up on her technical journals. Enthusiasm and a positive approach keep Adele in demand as an adjudicator, clinician, and workshop teacher across Canada.

With a diversified repertoire from opera to cabaret Ms. Clark's repertoire includes roles as wide-ranging as 'Nellie Lovett' in Sondheim's Sweeney Todd to the Countess in Le Nozze di Figaro and Adele in Die Fledermaus, as well as a large collection of crazy ladies and women of dubious repute. Directing credits include opera, cabaret and musical theatre for professional and community theatre.

Ms. Clark is a long-standing member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Music Teachers National Association, the B.C Registered Music Teachers Association, the Voice Foundation (Professional member) and the Canadian Actor's Equity Union (honorary withdrawal).

## JAZZ BAND – WALTER MARTELLA



Walter Martella, conductor and Music Director of the Powell River Academy of Music, has long been an integral part of Powell River's musical community. He is an accomplished pianist, accordionist and trumpeter, starting lessons at age five, and soon joining the original Boys Choir conducted by Don James. Music remained his focus as he earned a Diploma in Jazz Trumpet from Malaspina College (VIU), a Bachelor of Music Degree from University of Victoria and his attendance at Banff School of Fine Arts.

Conducting became a significant part of Martella's life and career when he returned to Powell River to study at PRAM under Don James. He has participated in the British Columbia Choral

Federation's conducting program and has collaborated with world-renowned conductors. He has led noteworthy works like Holst's *Rig Veda* for choir and harp, *Messiah*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. He conducts the Academy Chamber Choir, Chor Musica Men's Choir and Powell River Chorus as well as maintaining a full private teaching schedule.

He is the co-founder of one of this region's newest cultural events, qathet Accordion Fest.

Martella is a strong believer in the power of music as an important part of community. He has been an adjudicator for instrumental and choral festivals throughout British Columbia and is well known as an enthusiastic mentor, making room for his young students in his own public performances. He has recorded six jazz CDs, performed provincially with many well-known musicians in multiple genres and continues to be in demand all along the West Coast as a trumpet soloist and jazz pianist.