

Minutes of the Tenth Meeting of the  
2024-25 Board of the Ontario Band Association  
**Monday, June 9, 2025**  
via Zoom, 7pm

**Present**

**EXECUTIVE**

|                  |                |                |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Matthew Rodnick  | President      |                |
| Lani Sommers     | Present-Elect  | <i>regrets</i> |
|                  | Treasurer      | vacant         |
| Steffan Brunette | Secretary      |                |
| Angela Tran      | Past-President |                |

**DIRECTORS: Institutional**

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| Membership | vacant |
|------------|--------|

**DIRECTORS: Symposia**

|                |                                    |        |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| Matthew Peter  | Wind Conductors' Symposium         |        |
| Simone Gendron | Capital Region Wind Band Symposium |        |
|                | Beginning Band Symposium           | vacant |

**DIRECTORS: Festivals**

|                    |                                 |                |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Jessica Puskar     | Provincial Band Festival        | <i>regrets</i> |
| Jennifer Cresswell | Small Ensemble Festival         |                |
| Shashi Ramu        | Golden Horseshoe Music Festival |                |

**DIRECTORS: Honour Bands**

|                 |                                         |                |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Matthew Rodnick | Western Intermediate Honour Band        |                |
| Alicia Kennedy  | Ontario Provincial Honour Band          |                |
| Troy Jones      | Laurier Elementary Honour Band          | <i>regrets</i> |
| Lani Sommers    | Capital Region Junior Winds Honour Band | <i>regrets</i> |

**POSITIONS of RESPONSIBILITY**

|              |                                     |                |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Ari Mohindra | Communications Co-ordinator         |                |
| Troy Jones   | Elementary Music Education Advocate | <i>regrets</i> |
|              | OBA-CBA(On) Liaison                 | vacant         |
| Chris Reesor | Industry                            | <i>regrets</i> |

|                    |                                         |  |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|--|
| Cynthia Yuschyshyn | Chair Regional Representative Committee |  |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|--|

**MEMBERS**

Kito Lam

**1. Call to Order**

*Rodnick* called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

**Motion to adopt the agenda.**

Moved by *Rodnick*. Seconded by *Ramu*. Motion carried.

**3. Ratification of the Minutes of the Ninth Meeting from April 2025.**

**Motion to adopt the minutes.**

Moved by *Rodnick*. Seconded by *Tran*. Motion carried.

**4. Summary of Action Items from Previous Meetings**

There were no Action Items.

**5. Announcements**

*Rodnick* welcomed Kito Lam to the meeting. He is the Executive's preferred candidate for Treasurer.

*Rodnick* informed the Board that Cosmo sent the OBA a \$1200 donation before they formally went out of business.

*Peter* has self-published some compositions and passed along his website.

**6. Scheduled Orders of Business**

**(a) Fundraising Template (Ramu)**

*Ramu* shared some templates that have been used at the Golden Horseshoe Music Festival. They include pamphlets for parents, tiered business sponsorship plans, and outlined how sponsors are shown on the website. There is also a letter for philanthropic donors.

The focus here is on cash donations, not "in-kind" donations for major donors like Yamaha and Long & McQuade.

There is a need to add content regarding the Honour Band projects to the philanthropy letter. *Ramu* asked for help from *Rodnick*, *Sommers*, and *Jones*.

There is an intention to have a brainstorming session in the summer.

**7. Discussion Items**

**(a) Future of Beginning Band Symposium (Rodnick)**

*Rodnick* opened a discussion on the model of the BBS.

Ideas included looking for local Beginning Band experts, perhaps creating a "conference" model with multiple rooms showcasing different workshops.

*Ramu* expanded on the conference model, because the current BBS usually results in an empty room at all times.

A discussion was held on possible clinicians who might be available and have great ideas to share.

*Rodnick* will be heading up the organization of this event until a new Director is in place.

*Ramu* warned that promotions is the most difficult part of this.

October 4 would be the preferred date.

### **(b) Membership Renewals (Rodnick)**

There has been a problem with membership renewals for about two years, and there is potentially \$8,000 in missing membership fees. The Membership Jotform was not properly connected. The members who are affected would not have been charged, but would not necessarily be aware of their membership status.

There may be side concerns about technical errors and financial information that was left “unprocessed”.

Some memberships are unrenewed for two years. We might be able to phrase a second year as a donation.

There is a move to a new platform called Zeffy, which will ease the work of the Membership Director.

### **MOTION**

*Whereas* the membership fee situation needs to be addressed, *be it resolved* that the Board of Directors empowers the President to communicate to the affected membership:

- (i) that they can assist the OBA with a donation to offset the missing membership, and
- (ii) encourage them to renew their membership in the fall or at the next OBA event.

Moved by *Gendron*. Seconded by *Kennedy*. **None opposed**. Motion carried.

### **(c) Receipt Copies to Treasurer (Tran)**

The April/May receipts are almost reconciled. Event directors to ensure all receipts and invoices are to go to Tran.

Anyone who used the OBA Visa card must reconcile the card payments ASAP.

*Rodnick* said that the financial situation is settling out in a positive way. The payments of invoices need to be prioritized during this time.

**(d) Funding for Securing Mohawk College (Ramu)**

**MOTION**

*Whereas* the Golden Horseshoe Music Festival is in need of funding to secure the booking of Mohawk College, and will be returning the funds to the General Account once revenue allows, and *whereas* the Treasurer has indicated that an amount of \$5,000 can be moved to the GHMF account, *be it resolved* that the Board of Directors approve the expense.

Moved by *Rodnick*. Seconded by *Peter*. **None opposed. Motion carried.**

**8. Reports from the Executive**

**(a) President**

see attached report

*Rodnick* is helping to setup the Zeffy system, and will use the Western Intermediate Honour Band as a trial run.  
There are five more regional reps joining the team.  
Emails of new reps can be sent to *Brunette* to be part of distribution lists.

**(b) President-Elect**

**no report submitted**

**(c) Treasurer**

see attached report

*Tran* confirmed that both OBA Visa card will stay within the GTA.

**(d) Secretary**

see attached report

Bylaws can be revised.  
Conflict of Interest Policy and Refund Policy are up for renewal. Please review and offer suggestions.

**(e) Past-President**

see attached report

**9. Reports from Directors: Institutional Portfolios**

**(a) Membership**

Position is vacant.

## **10. Reports from Directors: Event Portfolios**

### **(a) Beginning Band Symposium**

Position is vacant.

### **(b) Western Intermediate Honour Band**

see attached report

WIHB goes live tomorrow for the fall event.

### **(c) Provincial Honour Band**

see attached report

There were 180 auditions. The Honour Band will have about 81 people. There are recalls for piccolo and string bass.

Players are coming from Sudbury and Dryden. About 20% are coming from outside the GTA. There are strong female principal brass players throughout the band.

### **(d) Capital Region Wind Band Symposium**

see attached report

### **(e) Provincial Band Festival**

**no report submitted**

There will be a PBF committee meeting tomorrow.

### **(f) Golden Horseshoe Music Festival**

see attached report

*Ramu* wanted to inform the Board that Simone Gendron was awarded the Keith Mann award at MusicFest Canada. The Board issued their congratulations.

### **(g) York Wind Conductors' Symposium**

*nil report*

### **(h) Small Ensemble Festival**

*nil report*

### **(i) Capital Region Junior Winds Honour Band**

**no report submitted**

### **(j) Laurier Honour Bands**

**no report submitted**

*Rodnick* attended both Honour Bands, and had great news to report on them. The students were enthusiastic, and he thanked *Sommers* and *Jones* for their efforts.

**11. Reports from Positions of Responsibility**

**(a) Communications Co-ordinator**

see attached report

**(b) Elementary Music Education Advocate**

**no report submitted**

**(c) Industry**

*nil report*

An email from *Reesor* indicated that many Cosmo employees have been hired onto Long & McQuade and many school contracts are continuing without incident.

**(d) CBA(Ontario) Liaison**

**no report submitted**

**12. Reports from Regional Liaisons**

**(a) Near North**

see attached report

**(b) East**

see attached report

**13. New Business**

**MOTION**

*Whereas* the Executive has engaged in an interview process in accordance with the Bylaws, *be it resolved* that the Board of Directors approve the appointment of **Kito Lam** to the interim position of Treasurer, with the term ending at the November 2025 Annual General Meeting.

Moved by *Rodnick*. Seconded by *Ramu*. **None opposed. Motion carried.**

**14. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

Moved by *Tran*. Seconded by *Gendron*. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm

The next meeting will be in September 2025, date TBA.



Agenda of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
2024–2025 Board of Directors  
**Monday, June 9, 2025**  
via Zoom  
7pm

1. Call to Order: *Quorum is eight voting positions.*
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Ratification of the Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of the Board from April 2025
4. Summary of Action Items from Previous Meetings  
nil
5. Announcements
6. Scheduled Orders of Business
  - (a) Fundraising Template (Ramu)  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZqNGTH1GlCretVjoGVk64\\_er6ZuH26xl?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZqNGTH1GlCretVjoGVk64_er6ZuH26xl?usp=drive_link)
7. Discussion Items
  - (a) Future of Beginning Band Symposium (Rodnick)
  - (b) Membership Renewals (Rodnick)
  - (c) Receipt Copies to Treasurer (Tran)
  - (d) Funding for Securing Mohawk College (Ramu)
8. Reports from the Executive
  - (a) President *Rodnick* *see: Discussion Items*
  - (b) President-Elect *Sommers* **no report submitted**
  - (c) Treasurer *vacant*
  - (d) Secretary *Brunette*
  - (e) Past-President *Tran* *see: Discussion Items*
9. Reports from Directors: Institutional Portfolios
  - (a) Membership *vacant*
10. Reports from Directors: Event Portfolios
  - (a) Beginning Band Symposium *vacant*
  - (b) Western Intermediate Honour Band *Rodnick*
  - (c) Provincial Honour Band *Kennedy*
  - (d) Capital Region Wind Band Symposium *Gendron*
  - (e) Provincial Band Festival *Puskar* **no report submitted**
  - (f) Golden Horseshoe Music Festival *Ramu* *see: Discussion Items*
  - (g) York Wind Conductors' Symposium *Peter* *nil report*
  - (h) Small Ensemble Festival *Cresswell* **no report submitted**
  - (i) Capital Region Junior Winds Honour Band *Sommers* **no report submitted**
  - (j) Laurier Honour Bands *Jones* **no report submitted**

## AGENDA: JUNE 9, 2025

- |     |                                          |                   |                            |
|-----|------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 11. | Reports from Positions of Responsibility |                   |                            |
|     | (b) Communications Co-ordinator          | <i>Mohindra</i>   | <b>no report submitted</b> |
|     | (c) Elementary Music Education Advocate  | <i>Jones</i>      | <b>no report submitted</b> |
|     | (d) Industry                             | <i>Reesor</i>     | <b>no report submitted</b> |
|     | (e) CBA(On)-OBA Liaison                  | vacant            |                            |
| 12. | Reports from Regional Liaisons           |                   |                            |
|     | (a) North                                | <i>Thornton</i>   |                            |
|     | (b) East                                 | <i>Yuschyshyn</i> |                            |
| 13. | New Business                             |                   |                            |
| 14. | Adjournment                              |                   |                            |

**Next meeting is proposed for September 2025.**

**Board Meeting  
Monday June 9 2025**



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## **Executive Report**

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### ***President***

***Matt Rodnick***

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*Submit in electronic format to the SECRETARY by Saturday, June 7, 2025.*

### **Discussion Items for the Board**

1. Future of the Beginning Band Symposium
2. Membership Renewals

### **Standard Report**

#### **Actions Undertaken Since the Previous Meeting**

- Submitted CBA member report.
- Attended CBA member consultation meeting virtually.
- Attended CBA Meeting in Ottawa. Still have one more day of meetings to go as of this report. I will fill the board in during the meeting if there are any important updates following the Sunday meeting.
- Met with Lisa from Bandology to discuss potential collaborations.
- Created a Zeffy Account for the OBA.
  - Zeffy can manage membership renewals. Memberships will automatically renew and Zeffy manages member renewals. Currently our database needs much maintenance. Zeffy would automate most of this at 0 cost.
  - Zeffy will also allow us to build registration forms. We are currently piloting registration for the Western Intermediate Honour Band. There are a number of customization options similar to a Google Form, however, it may not have robust enough functionality to work for festival registrations. If we can even migrate honour band registrations to this system, we will save a lot of money in credit card processing fees.
- Deposited funds and cheques from Elementary Honour Bands to RBC.
- Attended Capital Winds Junior Honour Band.
- Attended Honour Bands of Laurier.
- Attended TYWO/OBA Elementary Honour Band
- Reached out to York University regarding room booking for the beginning band symposium
- Managed and responded to inquiries from members
- Welcomed new Regional Representatives. They will be joining us for our next meeting on June 22nd. A huge thank you to Cynthia for her excellent work chairing the Regional Reps committee!

- Sent letter to new potential board members to schedule interviews.
- We have discovered a lapse in membership renewals. Due to a broken payment link on our registration form for the past two years, a number of our members have not paid their renewal dues. Up to \$9000 in revenue could have therefore been missing.
- I have created a letter we can send to members letting them know that their payment wasn't in fact processed and asks them to voluntarily pay. This would be sent to members. Something along these lines:

*Dear OBA Member,*

*We are reaching out to inform you of an important update regarding your OBA membership.*

*Due to an unexpected technical glitch in our payment system, your membership fees for the past year were not processed as originally intended when you completed the renewal process. We sincerely apologize for this oversight and any confusion it may cause.*

*To correct this, we will be moving forward with processing the outstanding membership fees within the next month by filling out the updated Membership Registration form (link inserted here). Please don't hesitate to contact our treasurer Angela Tran at [treasurer@onband.ca](mailto:treasurer@onband.ca) if you have any questions or concerns about the transaction.*

*OBA memberships play a crucial role in sustaining the OBA. This past year, we provided musical enrichment opportunities to over 17,000 students throughout the province. Through your membership in the OBA, you contribute to supporting music festivals, honour bands, and symposiums across the province.*

*We truly appreciate your understanding and continued support. Thank you for being a valued member of our community.*

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**Actions to be Undertaken by the Director**

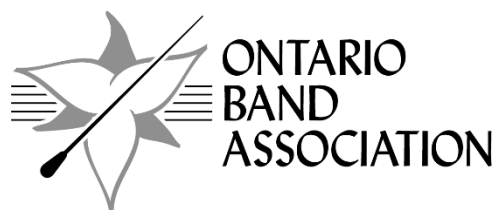
- Help with the BBS planning process

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**Actions to be Undertaken by the Board**



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## **Executive Report**

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***Treasurer (Interim/non-voting)***

***Angela Tran***

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*Submit in electronic format to the SECRETARY by Saturday, June 7, 2025.*

### **Discussion Items for the Board**

Event directors Re: Send receipt copies to treasurer (time-sensitive)

### **Standard Report**

#### **Actions Undertaken Since the Previous Meeting**

-I would like to give a huge thank you to M. Barth for all the work he is doing behind the scenes and keeping the OBA financially up-to-date and organized!

-Continued conversations with execs and M. Barth regarding financial strategy for this year. Including a second bank card to help with cash deposits from multiple events and locations.

-Deposit cheques from SEF and LEOHB

-Received cash from LEOHB

#### **Bookkeeper Notes (M. Barth)**

Sent invoices to:

-Long & McQuade - Laurier Honour Band Sponsorship (received)

resent invoice to Ellison Travel - PBF advertising

Processed payments to:

-Mark Caswell - GHMF

-SEF adjudicators

-Ari - Q1 comms honorarium

-Laurier Honor Band: adjudicators and reimbursements

-Multimax Marketing: Laurier Honour Band t-shirts

-Harknett: folders for Capital Region and Laurier Honour Bands

Other activities:

-communicated with accountants as they prepare the OBA's financial statements and returns for 2024. I have received the documents and will be sending Public Services Body rebate application and Charitable Information Return presently

-kept Matt and Angela up-to-date on accounts payable and deadlines

-requested additional RBC client card to make deposits/debit payments more manageable at various event locations

-paid Visa bills and kept QuickBooks updated

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**Actions to be Undertaken by the Director**

- Continue to collect and prepare the last few expense reimbursements, VISA receipts, Account payable requests and invoice requests for SEF, CRJW and LEOHB for M. Barth to process
- Deposit LEOHB cash

Bookkeeper Notes (M. Barth)

- complete year end adjusting entries to close out 2024
- 
- 

**Actions to be Undertaken by the Board**

- Event directors to please send ALL receipts from your events and send to [treasurer@onband.ca](mailto:treasurer@onband.ca) ASAP. We need to reconcile VISA payments and bank account and prioritize payments with the funds remaining

**Board Meeting**  
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## **Executive Report**

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***Secretary***

***Steffan Brunette***

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*Submit in electronic format to the SECRETARY by Saturday, June 7, 2025.*

### **Discussion Items for the Board**

nil

### **Standard Report**

#### **Actions Undertaken Since the Previous Meeting**

Assisted with the Listening Committee for OPHB

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#### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Director**

Review Bylaws and Policies for revisions

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#### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Board**

Forward any suggestions for Bylaw Revisions to me so they can be ready for review in September.

**Board Meeting**  
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## **Executive Report**

***Past-President***

***Angela Tran***

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*Submit in electronic format to the SECRETARY by Saturday, June 7, 2025.*

### **Discussion Items for the Board**

nil

### **Standard Report**

#### **Actions Undertaken Since the Previous Meeting**

-supported Matt and executives with day-to-day plans

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#### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Director**

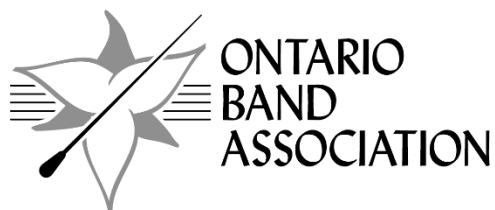
- Continue to support the executive team with any meetings and activities
- Continue to look into ways to improve the overall processes for the OBA. Met a data analyst at the university and will discuss possible solutions.
- connect with OMEA Re: affiliate booth for the Harmony conference in November

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#### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Board**

nil

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## **Director's Report**

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### ***Western Intermediate Honour Band***

***Matthew Rodnick***

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*Submit in electronic format to the SECRETARY by Saturday, June 7, 2025.*

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b><i>Event Date:</i></b>      | <b>October 18 – 19, 2025</b> |
| <b><i>(next milestone)</i></b> |                              |

### **Discussion Items for the Board**

#### **Standard Report**

##### **Actions Undertaken Since the Previous Meeting**

- Met with WIHB committee
- Repertoire has been selected for next year
- Dates have been selected: October 18th and 19th
- This year, we are making a change to registration. Teachers will no longer be required to fill out a student recommendation form until students have registered. We are hoping this eliminates the confusion in the registration process where teachers aren't clear about which students that they have registered have
- Sent a save the date email to teachers.
- Registration will go live on June 9th. We have limited the number of available spots for each instrument to try and ensure good instrumentation.

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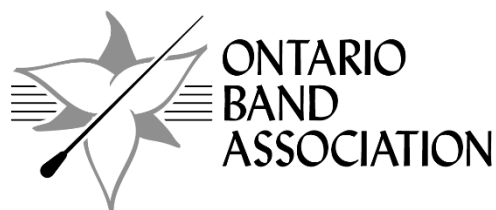
##### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Director**

- Book clinicians
  - Distribute music
- 

##### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Board**



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## **Director's Report**

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### ***Provincial Honour Band***

*Alicia Kennedy*

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*Submit in electronic format to the SECRETARY by Saturday, June 7, 2025.*

|                         |                                               |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <i>Event Date:</i>      | Nov 5 – 8, 2025                               |
| <i>(next milestone)</i> | June 8 <sup>th</sup> 2025 – Listening Session |

### **Discussion Items for the Board**

NIL

### **Standard Report**

#### **Actions Undertaken Since the Previous Meeting**

- Monitored progress of audition submissions
- Worked with Ari to announce reminders and deadline extensions on our social media
- Kept up with email correspondence, specifically regarding auditions
- Reached out to potential listening candidates for the Listening Session and formed listening panel
- Worked with Pratik to book rooms at YorkU, as well as other logistics for listening session
- Confirmed Yamaha Guest Artist piece selection, and confirmed that Dr. Travis Cross will begin repertoire selection for the other pieces

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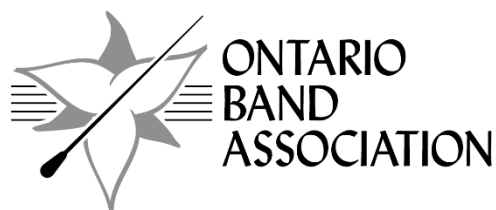
#### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Director**

- Run the listening session (will be complete by the time of our meeting)
  - Send out emails regarding successful/unsuccessful/wait listed auditions
  - Organize recall auditions as needed, as well as listeners for recall auditions
- 
- 

#### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Board**

- None!

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## **Director's Report**

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### ***Capital Region Wind Band Symposium***

*Simone Gendron*

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*Submit in electronic format to the SECRETARY by Saturday, June 7, 2025.*

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Event Date:</i>      | January 24 2026 |
| <i>(next milestone)</i> |                 |

#### **Discussion Items for the Board**

nil

#### **Standard Report**

##### **Actions Undertaken Since the Previous Meeting**

- contacted Dr. Jacquie Dawson to be the clinician this year; waiting on her to verify her calendar to confirm
  - confirmed the date with Ashbury
- 

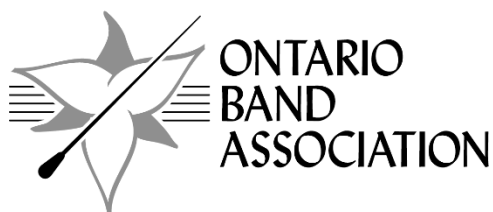
##### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Director**

- follow up with Jacquie next week
  - contact the GGFG Band to determine their availability
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##### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Board**

none

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## **Director's Report**

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### ***Golden Horseshoe Music Festival***

***Shashi Ramu***

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*Submit in electronic format to the SECRETARY by Saturday, June 7, 2025.*

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|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Event Date:</i>      | February 17-20, 2026 |
| <i>(next milestone)</i> |                      |

#### **Discussion Items for the Board**

Need \$5000 to secure Mohawk ASAP.  
Cross Reference Shashi fundraising agenda item

#### **Standard Report**

##### **Actions Undertaken Since the Previous Meeting**

First committee meeting happened June 1, and budget is completed. We have a \$15,000 shortfall, which will have to be raised through donations and sponsorships and MAX registrations.

First quote from Mohawk is received, edits and new room swaps/requests sent to them, as well as catering proposal, waiting to hear back. We are reconfiguring/moving jazz stage down into the central area (C066) and getting new room(s) for the Stage A warm up and clinic. More storage rooms.

The capacity of the festival will be increased as we are fully opening up tuesday and wednesday evenings, will be able to accommodate around 195 ensembles. Forecasting 180 registrations and using 180 for budgeting purposes (see above). Budget is based on \$450 per ensemble which is a \$25 increase.

Fundraising/sponsorship subcommittee is meeting in June

Volunteer recruitment will have been launched by the time of this meeting

Parent donation letter has been sent to last year's participating teachers

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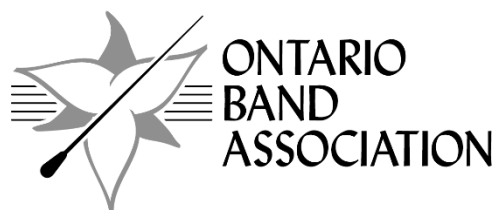
##### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Director**

Secure Mohawk, contract clinicians, re-write/update rules and festival info for website, volunteer and money recruitment

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**Actions to be Undertaken by the Board - NIL**

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## **POR Report**

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### ***Communications Co-ordinator***

*Ari Mohindra*

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*Submit in electronic format to the SECRETARY by Saturday, June 7, 2025.*

### **Discussion Items for the Board**

“nil”

### **Standard Report**

#### **Actions Undertaken Since the Previous Meeting**

- Prepped June MMI
  - Created & promoted general donations jotform for the OBA
  - Helped CRJW & LEOHB collect donations for their events through jotform
  - Continued maintaining social media channels & website
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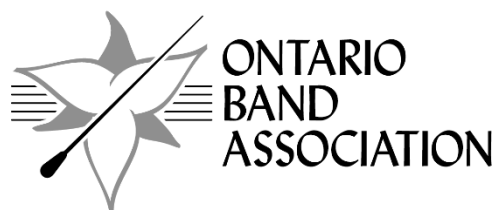
#### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Director**

- Complete and send out June MMI
  - Schedule social media posts for the summer
  - Continue maintaining social media channels & website
- 

#### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Board**

- Please continue to share OBA event posts with your personal/professional social media networks and engage with the community Facebook group

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## **Liaison Report**

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### ***Regional Liaison (North & Near North)***

*Mitch McIntyre & Mary Thornton*

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*Submit in electronic format to the SECRETARY by Saturday, June 7, 2025.*

#### **Discussion Items for the Board**

Nil

#### **Standard Report**

##### **Actions Undertaken Since the Previous Meeting**

The Near North regional rep and the new rep from Thunder Bay are undergoing a document/plan for new/nearly new beginning teachers. The project is about introducing these teachers to the benefits, prep and how to be in a festival. This festival guide is in the beginning stages. It will stress that it is not all about the 'winning' it is all about the learning. My partner in this endeavour is Dr. Jane Saunders. Part of the plan is also to set up various festivals in the North that are accessible to the groups in the North. Costs and distance is a problem for the groups to attend southern festivals.

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##### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Director**

- ✓ Continue to go to Regional Rep scheduled meeting
  - ✓ Continue to work on connecting with young teachers to get their ideas as to what would be helpful to include
  - ✓ Continue meeting with Jane.
  - ✓ Keep OBA up to date with what we are doing
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##### **Actions to be Undertaken by the Board**

Nil, at this time

This report was submitted by Mary Thornton, Near North regional representative and on behalf of Jane Saunders.

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## **Liaison Report**

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### ***Regional Liaison (East)***

*Cynthia Yuschyshyn*

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*Submit in electronic format to the SECRETARY by Saturday, June 7, 2025.*

#### **Discussion Items for the Board**

nil

#### **Standard Report**

##### **Actions Undertaken Since the Previous Meeting**

We did not have any activity in May as we had decided it was going to be a super busy month.

A few items to note:

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- If anyone in the OBA wants us to discuss anything at the Regional Reps next meeting, please let Mary or me know
  - Looking at a Mid June meeting - link and meeting reminder will be sent shortly. Checking everyone's availability for June 22nd at 10 am.
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Here are some notes from what we discussed at our last meeting.

Mary discussed the incredible impact of educating, informing and entertaining her audiences. The Audience The Elements of Music program she found highly effective and used this as a venue has proven to be highly popular and effective in building audience participation and numbers. These may be elements of program development that we might want to share with other directors.

There was a broad flurry of subjects discussed that was broad so we decided we needed to pare it down. We decided to focus on two projects that would be helpful for developing instrumental programs.

1. Create a First Band Festival best practices kit - to encourage and assist band directors with engaging their musicians in participating in music festivals for the first time. Mary is going to head this initiative and seek out expertise from colleagues to help her with this project. Jane has mentioned that she is interested in joining Mary in creating a template based on your extensive adjudication experience.

2. Recruitment and advocacy - we discussed the Bandology resources and discussed the possibility of creating a somewhat less daunting list of tasks for emerging programs that focus on the needs and goals of beginning, emerging, and struggling programs? Matt is going to chat with some of the Bandology creators to explore this idea further.

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**Possible Advocacy Strategies and Resources**

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- Looking into joining forces with the advocacy committee - I will touch base with the chair this week.
  - Mary is looking to see if it is possible to include an advocacy component in the courses for Principals offered throughout the province as a key component of instrumental music program advocacy.
  - Expanding our Regional Reps. and expanding our OBA network and would like to welcome our new members. Matt will be writing an email to welcome them and invite them to our Mid-June meeting.
  - Expanding our network through social media with a graphics based approach as well however it is our personal connections and meeting people face to face that works best.
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If you have anything to share we would love to hear from you! Please email me at [east@onband.ca](mailto:east@onband.ca) if you have any agenda items for our next meeting.

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**Actions to be Undertaken by the Director**

< draft welcome email with Cynthia >

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**Actions to be Undertaken by the Board**

< Nil >