

Welcome and Congratulations!

Dear Provincial Festival Recommended Observer:

On behalf of the Provincial Board of Directors and our Member-Festivals, congratulations on being selected to represent your local Festival as an Observer, at the 2012 Performing Arts BC Provincial Festival, May 27 - 31, in Nanaimo. We sincerely hope your time there will be filled with interesting and rewarding experiences.

Your participation begins now: you have been recommended by your local festival Adjudicator to proceed to the Provincial Festival as a Non-Competitive Observer. Your Festival secretary or other local Festival official will supply you with information and the form that you need to fill out and return to them by their deadline. As we are continuing to use an online registration system, you will receive email confirmation of your entry once it is entered in the system by your local festival. Keep a copy of the email for your records. Regardless of whether your festival pays for your entry or if you pay for it yourself, you **must** sign and return the waiver that is attached to the confirmation, to the provincial festival office. If you pay for your own entry, you now have the option of being able to pay by credit card using PayPal **or** you may send a cheque to the festival office. Payments using PayPal will be subject to a surcharge. You will not be considered registered until the office receives both your payment and signed waiver.

Procedure: you will find information in this Letter and on the PABC website. As many details of the Festival are not known at this time, more information will be posted on the web-site at www.performingartsbc.ca. – keep checking for these updates.

Many performers enter more than one local Festival but you may only be chosen as an Observer for the Provincial Festival from ONE local Festival. Once you have accepted a recommendation, you must inform the other Festivals you enter that you are no longer eligible for Observer recommendation. However, if you are recommended **for full participation status** in a subsequent Festival in which you have entered, you may choose to be the full performing entrant from that Festival instead of the Observer from the first Festival - in this case, you **MUST** inform the first local Festival that you are giving up your space. Please note that you cannot be both an Official Observer and also a competitive participant in the Provincial Festival.

Accommodation, venues: the web-site will soon list accommodation in the Nanaimo area, along with a venue map. Keep checking for information! Make your own accommodation arrangements, and be prepared to give that information at Registration. Performance venues will also be added when the information is available. Please check the website for **Travel** suggestions too.

Registration and Opening Event: Registration will open on Sunday, May 27 at **11:00am**, in the Lounge of the **Beban Park Social Centre**, 2300 Bowen Rd., Nanaimo. It will stay open until 9:00pm that evening and then relocate to the festival office in Room 8 of the same building, reopening on Monday morning at 8:00am and staying open all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We ask that you register when you arrive in Nanaimo so that you obtain your Registration kit of Festival ID and Programme.

The festival opening event on Sunday, May 27, will take place at Maffeo Sutton Park (Swy-a-Lana Lagoon) on the Nanaimo waterfront between 4:00pm and 7:00pm. Admission is free for all. Come and meet other festival delegates and their families and the local Nanaimo organizing committee.

Tickets for evening concerts will be sold at the Port Theatre box office, 125 Front St., Nanaimo and also online at www.porttheatre.com.

Observer Concerts: Every recommended Observer may perform in one of the Special Observer Concerts which are open to the public with admission by donation. These Concerts are tentatively planned for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday noon-hours (Music and Speech Arts) and Wednesday afternoon (Dance). Signup will be on a first come, first served basis and will be limited to 20 performers each. Please sign up at Registration starting on Sunday, May 27.

Daily Sessions and Workshops: Your Festival ID will be your “ticket” to enter any of the daily Music or Speech Arts classes/performances/adjudications, and any of the daily Dance Performance Sessions – you will not be restricted to attend only one discipline at the Festival. New for 2012, there will be **two dance observer workshops** – one for ballet and one for jazz. Dance Observers may also be able to watch the daily Dance Technique classes. Check for specific Observer workshops in your discipline (PIANO!) or other workshops (woodwinds and brass, guitar, voice, musical theatre, vocal variety and speech arts) that you may attend. Please watch the website for further information as it becomes available.

For further information: please stay in touch with your local Festival official, and check the PABC web-site frequently.

Sincerely, Antonia Mahon, ED, PABC

PABC Web-Site: www.performingartsbc.ca