

## FEATURED PAST PARTICIPANTS

### Maeve Calhoun

#### Clarinet

My name is Maeve Calhoun, and I am a clarinetist from Kamloops, B.C. I started playing clarinet when I was eleven years old at Beattie School of the Arts, and I began studying with Sally Arai two years later. I participated in the Kamloops Festival of the Performing Arts from 2015 to 2021, first in piano and then transitioning to solo instrumental in 2017. I was the recipient of the Top Mark (Instrumental) award in 2020 and 2021.

After high school I moved to Victoria to attend the UVic School of Music from which I recently graduated in 2025 with a Bachelor of Music in clarinet performance. Since graduating I've begun my career as a professional musician, and recently performed with Western Canada Theatre in the band for their production of Anne of Green Gables.

Participating in the Kamloops Festival of the Performing Arts was the experience I credit most to preparing me for my music degree in university. As a performance major, much of the field of study was based around solo performance, including performing in front of an adjudication panel.

The process of choosing repertoire for the Festival, preparing it, and receiving feedback from a teacher in lessons allowed me to experience the amount of work and dedication required to be successful in university and in the professional world beyond. Many of my classmates in university had never performed solo before coming to school, but I already had many years of experience performing in the KPFA to fall back on.

My advice to musicians is to enjoy the process of preparing for the Festival. A successful performance has more to do with the quality of your practice and hard work leading up to it than the end result. Performing music can be scary, but it can also be immensely rewarding when you experience all your work paying off.

Best of luck to everyone performing this year!

