

Scenes from The Concert of Excellence at Cornell Farms, June 19, 2009



John Dutton, Fort Frances High School Music Teacher and Katherine Williams, Conductor, Borderland Community Orchestra selected some of the best young talent the Rainy River District has to offer to perform at the Concert of Excellence.

First on stage was the Borderland Community Orchestra's Brass Ensemble featuring Chris Foreman (French Horn), Mark Loney (trumpet), Alex Marusyk (tuba), Neil Plumridge (trumpet) and John Dutton (trombone). Neil is attending the University of Brandon in the fall majoring in trumpet.



Next up was Shannon Darby, who is entering her third year of music at the University of Brandon. She performed the first movement of Max Bruch's famous violin concerto accompanied by Rachel Schmutz.



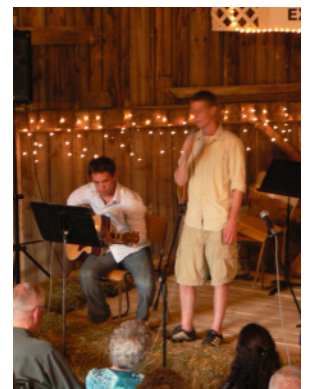
Arcato, a local string ensemble performed a trio of Latin songs and featured Mitsurki Matsuda (a Japanese exchange student) Shannon Darby, and Scott Barker on violin, Katherine Williams on viola and Dean Lindstrom on cello. Scott Barker will be attending the University of Brandon in the fall majoring in both violin and voice. He is currently working on the Don Cherry movie being filmed in Manitoba.



Kenneth Kellar and Brittany Hayes performed both solos and a duet. They are attending St. Clair College of the Arts majoring in performance.



Alex Marusyk sang his own folk inspired tunes with his band of Joelle Barron (mandolin), Ryan Wood (drums) and Ben Sletmoen (bass guitar). Alex is organizing the first Fort Frances Folk Festival on July 18, 2009 at Little Beaver Snow Park. Garnet Cornell performed a Gordon Lightfoot tune "If You Could Read My Mind" accompanied by Mike McCaig.



The final performances of the evening involved Lauren Gurski performing "Right as Rain" with Neil Plumridge on the piano; and Garnet and Lauren performing Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" accompanied by Marnie Dutton. Lauren is the Vocal Rose Bowl Winner and is planning a future in musical theatre.

