

Bible Hill drummer finds feedback from adjudicator helpful



Raissa Tetanish - Truro Daily News

Bible Hill's Oliver Locke rehearses a song on the mandolin, just one of the many instruments he plays. The 18-year-old will perform one last time in the Truro Music Festival's choral and band discipline, which runs Monday to Wednesday at CEC.

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TRURO – For the past four years, Oliver Locke has taken what adjudicators told him and tried to improve upon his musical skills.

Topics : [Bethany Bible College](#) , [Attending Immanuel Baptist Church](#) , [Kingswood University](#) , [Bible Hill](#) , [Sussex](#)

The 18-year-old Grade 12 student at CEC will once again use the Truro Music Festival as a learning experience.

“The biggest benefit of the Truro Music Festival, for me, isn't getting a grade or comparing us to other bands, it's about hearing from the adjudicators and learning from them,” the Bible Hill resident said as he prepares to once again participate in the choral and band discipline at the festival. The discipline starts Monday and runs until Wednesday at CEC. “The adjudicators give you feedback and that's really why we participate in the festival.”

It was seven years ago that Locke picked up his first set of drumsticks, but he's also added other instruments – various percussion, piano and mandolin – to his repertoire.

“I started with the drums because I was convinced my fingers weren't good at specific things, precise stuff, so I figured I could use two (drumsticks) and hit bigger things.”

When he was in junior high school, Locke joined the jazz band with a friend who didn't want to go it alone. He's performed with numerous bands in the festival.

“I remember in Grade 10 when I performed with the symphonic band, the adjudicator talked about balancing with all the different instruments and volume, and playing together,” the musician said.

It was around that same time that Locke realized he wanted to pursue a career in music and joined the concert band at school.

“I play drums in my church and I don't know...I felt the call, somewhat, like that was what I was supposed to do.”

Attending Immanuel Baptist Church in Truro, Locke found a role model in the late Lynn Erskine, who had an influence of where Locke will continue his education in the fall.

He'll be working toward a Bachelor of Arts in music ministry at Kingswood University in Sussex, N.B.

“Lynn had gone there when it was Bethany Bible College and seeing how well-equipped he was, it made me really think about going there,” said Locke, adding the university with about a 200 student enrollment is also close to home.

“There will be a lot of opportunities for experience for me, such as playing in chapel services and leading worship, which is more than just music.”

He said his post-secondary studies will also help him improve upon his singing and piano techniques, the latter of which he's focusing on playing more these days.

"I love playing music with others," Locke said. "It's the interaction with them. It's like you automatically become friends. It's that interaction that I enjoy the most."

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IF YOU GO:

WHAT: 91st Truro Music Festival

WHO: Choral and band discipline

WHEN: April 22 to 24

WHERE: Cobequid Educational Centre

FINAL CONCERT: April 28, 2 p.m. at the Marigold Cultural Centre, featuring junior and senior piano, guitar, voice, and choral and band disciplines