

The Roy Ernst Music Institute
Music Camp at Port Elgin, Ontario, Canada
August 11–15, 2025



Administration

Co-Directors: Roy Ernst, Dan Kapp

Assistant Directors: Pat Dugan, Lisa Kapp

Location: **Port Elgin** is a charming town nestled along the picturesque shores of Lake Huron in Bruce County, Ontario. Known for its stunning sunsets, sandy beaches, and vibrant community spirit, this quaint destination offers a perfect blend of natural beauty and small-town charm. With a population of approximately 7,000 residents, Port Elgin provides a welcoming and friendly atmosphere for both locals and visitors.

The town boasts a rich history, dating back to the 19th century when it was a bustling port and shipping hub. Today, Port Elgin retains its historic charm while embracing modern amenities and conveniences. The Main Beach is a popular spot for swimming, sunbathing, and water sports, attracting families and outdoor enthusiasts alike. The nearby Port Elgin Harbour is a hub for boating and fishing, offering picturesque views of the lake.

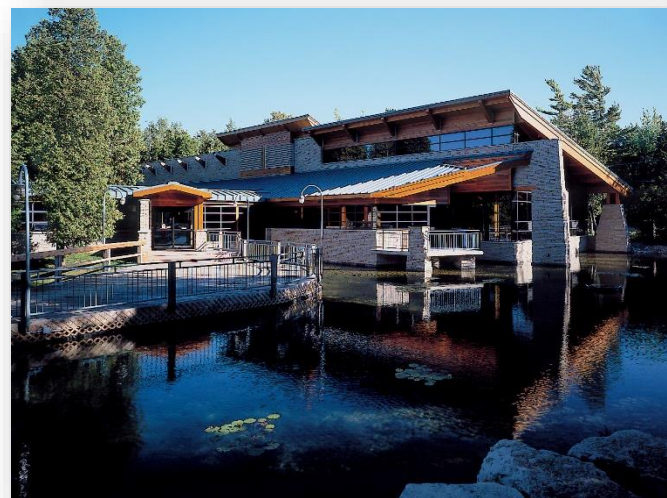


Port Elgin's downtown area is lined with quaint shops, cafes, and restaurants, providing a delightful shopping and dining experience. The local Farmers' Market, held during the summer months, showcases fresh produce, artisanal goods, and handmade crafts, adding to the town's vibrant community atmosphere. For those who enjoy outdoor activities, Port Elgin offers numerous hiking and biking trails, including the scenic North Shore Trail that runs along the lake's shoreline. The town is also home to several parks and recreational facilities, making it an ideal destination for nature lovers and adventure seekers.



In addition to its natural attractions, Port Elgin hosts various events and festivals throughout the year, including the renowned Summer Concert Series, which showcases the area's musical talents every Sunday evening from June to September. With its picturesque setting, friendly community, and array of activities, Port Elgin is a hidden gem in Ontario, waiting to be explored.

Facilities: The **Unifor Family Education Centre** is a beautiful lodge-style complex. It is a year-round facility sitting on a 47-acre site combining the best of a natural woodland setting and state-of-the-art technology. The Centre offers everything we could need for an exciting self-contained music camp. The facilities include spacious, clean, bright classrooms, rehearsal spaces large enough to accommodate even the biggest band or orchestra, a fully operational dining hall that can accommodate any diet, comfortable rooms, with the beach only a short 5-minute walk away.



Accommodation: Each spacious suite has its own bathroom, one or two queen-sized beds with all linens and even a beach towel provided. Rooms include a sitting area, small fridge, microwave, large modern bathroom, and a view of the grounds.



Dining Hall and Pub: The Unifor Centre boasts a full menu which can accommodate any dietary requests. The chef strives to “shop locally” making for fresh wholesome meals. The Unifor Centre also has a pub on site where you can relax with your favourite beverage, share the excitement of the day and get in a game of pool.

Accessibility: The Unifor Centre is totally wheelchair accessible and air-conditioned. Most rooms, including all classrooms, rehearsal and performance spaces, the dining hall, and the pub, are on the same level. You don't have to leave the building if you don't want to. Plus, there are plenty of level, wide outdoor pathways that take you in and around the facility so you can enjoy the natural surroundings.



Parking: There is plenty of free on-site parking. There are parking spaces available to people with mobility challenges upon request.

"I have run music camps for twenty years in many locations in the US (including Hawaii), Canada, and Australia. Unifor is the best facility I have found." Dr. Roy Ernst

Camp Faculty

Dr. Roy Ernst – Dunedin, Florida - Co-Director, Playing the Blues, Why Music Theory?

Dan Kapp – Lindsay, Ontario - Co-Director, Intermediate Band, German Band, Bucket Rhythm Workshop, Brass and Percussion Ensemble

Pat Dugan – Dunedin, Florida - Assistant Director

Lisa Kapp – Lindsay, Ontario - Assistant Director, Line Dancing, Bucket Rhythm Workshop

Brent Rowan – Guelph, Ontario - Intermediate Band, Advanced Jazz Ensemble, All Instrument Jazz Ensemble

Shawn Hills – Cobourg, Ontario - Advanced Band, Woodwind Ensemble

Resa Kochberg – Toronto, Ontario - Advanced Band, Flute Ensemble

Dr. Phillip Coonce – Toronto, Ontario - String Ensemble, Full Orchestra, Exploring Popular Music Styles

Large Ensembles

Intermediate Band - The difficulty level of the music will be easy and intermediate. Conductors: Brent Rowan and Dan Kapp

Advanced Band - For players who want to be challenged with music that is more difficult; intermediate to advanced. Conductors: Shawn Hills and Resa Kochberg

Unsure which band to select?

If you are unsure and would like some help, send a list of 2 or 3 band pieces or lesson pieces that you can comfortably play to royernst1@gmail.com

String Ensemble - is for all string players. Conductor: Phillip Coonce

Full Orchestra - is for all string players and advanced players on flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, tuba and percussion. Wind instrumentation will be limited to one person per part, so you should be comfortable playing an advanced part on your own. Conductor: Phillip Coonce

Smaller Ensembles and Classes

Advanced Jazz Ensemble - Traditional big band wind instrumentation (saxes, trumpets, trombones, drum kit, bass, guitar, and piano). Ensemble playing and producing the rhythmic characteristics of the genre will be the focus of this class for those with some experience in the idiom playing at an advanced level. Instructor: Brent Rowan

All Instrument Jazz Ensemble - This class will provide students with an introduction to playing Big Band music, learning the rhythmic characteristics and performance techniques. All instruments are welcome, including drum kit, bass, guitar, and piano. Instructor: Brent Rowan

Playing the Blues - for all instruments. Learn to play the blues in easy steps. Listen to music based on the blues. The blues are probably America's greatest contribution to the world of music. Instructor: Roy Ernst

German Band – It's always a good time of year to "Oompah"! The sheet music used in this band/orchestra is for expanded instrumentation which includes all instruments at this camp. We'd also love to see a keyboard player...especially an accordion player! Instructor: Dan Kapp

Flute Ensemble – Open to all flute players. Instructor: Resa Kochberg

Line Dancing - like you've never seen before! In this fun-filled workshop you'll be moving to the toe-tapping tunes of Eastern Canada! Wear comfy shoes, pack your sense of humor and get ready to dance like nobody's watching! Everyone welcome! No experience needed and there will be modifications for those with mobility issues ... so there's no excuse! You won't regret it! Instructor: Lisa Kapp

Exploring Popular Music Styles – Open to all string players. In this class, we will explore how classically trained players can transition to styles like bluegrass, jazz, klezmer, or Irish. Topics include developing a repertoire, learning by ear, sounding authentic, and using computer-assisted tools. We will also practice group playing, creating accompaniments from lead sheets, and soloing. The instructor will provide tunes, but you are welcome to bring your own. Instructor: Phillip Coonce

Why Music Theory? – Unlock the secrets of music with this engaging music theory class! Open to all campers, this class will deepen your understanding of musical forms, leading to greater appreciation and more expressive playing. Join us and discover how learning the fundamentals can transform your musical journey! Instructor: Roy Ernst

Bucket Rhythm Workshop – you will have an opportunity to develop your "rhythm chops" through the "bucket". You will use your bucket to explore different ways to count, practice and master tough rhythms, simple vs compound time, odd meters, tips for sight reading and more. Buckets and sticks provided. No percussion experience required. Instructor: Dan Kapp and Lisa Kapp

Woodwind Ensemble (Mixed Level) - This is an all-level group for all woodwind instruments playing a variety of music at a comfortable level .

Instructor: Shawn Hills

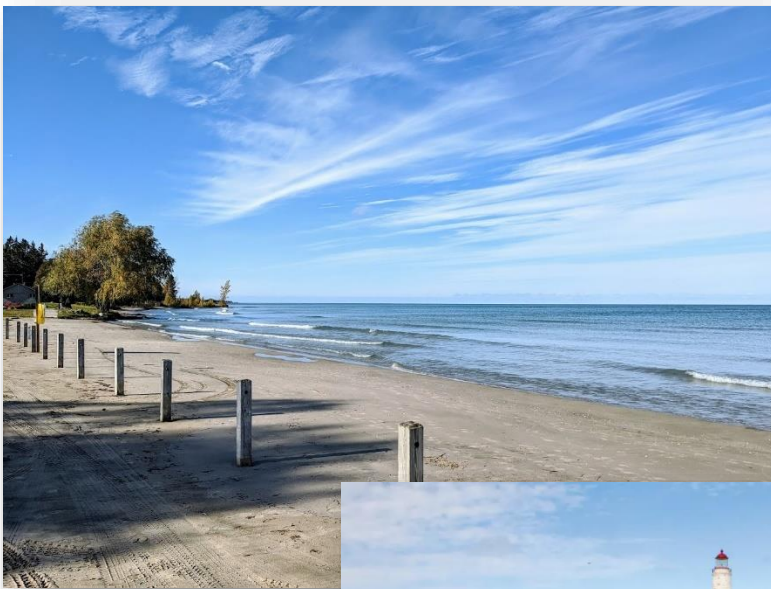
Brass and Percussion Ensemble (Mixed Level) - This is an all-level group for all brass and percussion instruments playing a variety of music at a comfortable level.

Instructor: Dan Kapp

How many classes should I take?

Playing your instrument too long each day can lead to muscle soreness and fatigue for most people. Think of three or four classes as a full load and consider taking some classes in which you will not play your instrument, such as “Why Music Theory?” or “Rhythm Bucket Workshop”. Many participants leave one or two periods free for rest and just walking around to enjoy the beautiful grounds or maybe the beach.

REGISTER NOW BY CLICKING HERE!



Camp Schedule

Monday, August 11

3-5:00 PM – Check-In at Registration Desk (main entrance and watch for signs)

5-6:15 PM - Dinner at the Dining Hall

6:15 PM – All participants meet in the Dining Hall: Opening words and introductions

7-8:00 PM – first large ensemble rehearsals

String Orchestra in Bob White Boardroom

Intermediate Band in Sisterhood Room

Advanced Band in Aboriginal and Workers of Colour Hall

Daily Schedule Tuesday to Thursday, August 12-14

	Grand Hall	Sisterhood Room	Bob White Room	Classroom
9-10:00	Advanced Band Hills/Kochberg	String Orchestra Coonce	Intermediate Band D. Kapp/Rowan	
10-10:30	Break			
10:30-11:30	Brass/ Percussion Ens. D. Kapp	Woodwind Ensemble Hills	Exploring Popular Music Styles (for strings only) Coonce	
11:30-1:00	Lunch			
1-2:00	Full Orchestra Coonce	Playing the Blues Ernst	All Instrument Jazz Ens. Rowan	Bucket Rhythm Workshop D. Kapp/L. Kapp
2-2:30	Break			
2:30-3:30	Advanced Jazz Ens. Rowan	Flute Ensemble Kochberg	German Band D. Kapp	Why Music Theory? Ernst
3:30-4:00	Break			
4-5:00	Advanced Band Hills/Kochberg	String Orchestra Coonce	Intermediate Band D. Kapp/Rowan	
5:00-6:30	Dinner			
7:00-8:00	Line Dancing L. Kapp			
8:00 PM	Sunset at the Beach			

Friday, August 15 Morning's Schedule

9:30 AM - Farewell Concert in Aboriginal and Workers of Colour Hall

11:00 AM - Happy Trails

Registration

On-line **registration is now open** for subscribers to The Roy Ernst Music Institute (REMI). To become a free subscriber, go to royernstmusic.com. Subscribers will also receive a \$40 discount. Non-subscribers can register beginning on **March 20, 2025**.

The first step is to register. That will reserve a place for your instrument in the large ensemble and classes you select. It is possible that there will be wait-lists for some instruments and choices. The first fifty people will be accepted regardless of instrumentation. After that, instrumentation will be a factor. Register early to avoid disappointment.

Once you have been accepted to camp, you will receive a payment request. Once your fee is paid you will receive a welcome letter and your seat will be guaranteed. Thank you.

Instructional Fee

Your instructional fee covers the cost of teachers, rental of rehearsal rooms and classrooms, rental of percussion instruments and other equipment. (Fees are in Canadian Funds)

Instructional Fee, REMI subscribers	\$450
Instructional Fee, Nonsubscribers*	\$490

Room and Board

Note: 13% HST will be added at payment
Prices are in Canadian Dollars (CDN)
Exchange rates will apply for US citizens (USD=CDN X .695 approx.)

Staying On-Site: *all "rooms" are suites

Private Room + 3 meals a day	\$320/day (total \$1280)
Shared Room + 3 meals a day	\$245/day (total \$980)
Couple Room + 6 meals a day	\$390/day (total \$1560)

Staying Off-site: the Unifor Centre requires that all camp participants staying off-site purchase a meal plan: **\$75/day (total \$300)**. This covers 3 healthy meals a day and access to all the Centre's facilities.

Cancellation Policy

Payments made on or before **July 10, 2025** can be refunded less a service charge of \$50.00 per person.

There will be **NO REFUNDS** on cancellations after that date. Send cancellation requests directly to royernst1@gmail.com

NOTE: There is always a chance that the camp will be cancelled. Before buying non-refundable airline tickets, confirm that the camp will happen by writing to royernst1@gmail.com.

[REGISTER NOW BY CLICKING HERE!](#)

Suggested Alternative Off-Site Lodgings

There are many hotels, motels and Bed 'n' Breakfasts to choose from near the Unifor Centre. If you choose to stay off site, here are a few suggestions:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Port Elgin, an IHG Hotel – 7 minutes from Unifor Staybridge Suites same site with complete kitchens
1208 Goderich St Building
Phone: [+1 519-832-2227](tel:+15198322227)

**Group rate for REMI is \$299 CAD

Travelodge by Wyndham, Port Elgin
235 Goderich St. Port Elgin. Phone: 1 509-832-2021
Expedia rate \$113 CAD, \$79 US

The Beach Motel and Restaurant- 15 minutes from Unifor, 21 Huron St S, Southampton, ON •+1 519-797-726: CAD \$459-\$610/night – these are suites.



Port Elgin has some of the most beautiful sunsets in Canada

About Your Teachers



Roy Ernst, Professor Emeritus at the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester, started the first New Horizons Band in 1991 at Eastman. He received grants over a period of several years from NAMM, The International Music Products Association, to start the first New Horizons Band and to assist in starting New Horizons Programs in other locations, causing some people to call him “The Johnny Appleseed of Music for Adults.” He has written articles and books on music education, conducting, and performance.

Roy earned a Ph. D. from The University of Michigan and has received honors from MENC, Delta Omicron, Wayne State University, The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and The Eastman School of Music. He was recognized as a “Grand Master of Music Education” by the Music Teachers National Association (formerly MENC). Roy was awarded an honorary doctorate from Western University in Ontario. In addition to teaching at Eastman, he has taught at Livonia Public Schools in Michigan, Wayne State University, Georgia State University and The New South Wales Conservatorium of Music in Sydney, Australia. His hobbies include learning to play new instruments, bike riding, walking, travel, and doing lots of dishes for his wife, Pat, a chef. **Classes:** *Playing the Blues, Why Music Theory?*



Dan Kapp holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Performance – trumpet) from York University in Toronto, Ontario. He also holds a Bachelor of Education from Queen’s University and has studied at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. He is bringing 30+ years of professional performance, teaching, conducting, and leadership experience to this camp. As Musical Director/Conductor, Dan has been involved in countless performances in many settings:

professional and community. He has conducted and taught in Canada, Turkey, the USA, and Latin America. Dan has also conducted at a number of Band Camps in Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New York, Maine, Michigan and South Carolina.

In 2010, Dan founded the New Horizons Band of Toronto which continues to offer band classes at 4 different levels with over 150 members.

Dan is thrilled to be teaching at the Port Elgin Music Camp with “Roy”. He is very much looking forward to re-connecting with old friends and to making many new friends in such a beautiful setting. **Classes:** *Intermediate Band, German Band, Bucket Rhythm Workshop, Brass and Percussion Ensemble.*



Shawn Hills earned her Honours Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education from Western University, then embarked on an amazing musical adventure. She studied clarinet under the tutelage of Jerome Summers and Avrahm Galper and learned conducting skills from Maestros Don McKellar, Jerome Summers, and Deral Johnson.

For three decades she graced the music classrooms of the Kawartha Pine Ridge Board of Education, igniting a love of music in her students' hearts.

Shawn's baton has led the Clarington Concert Band, the Lakeshore New Horizons Band in Bowmanville, the Laurier Wind Ensemble and she is currently guiding the Northumberland New Ventures Avanti Band in Cobourg. **Classes:** *Advanced Band, Woodwind Ensemble*



Resa Kochberg - It is one of Resa's greatest joys to share her love of music with others. After studying piano and playing flute in high school, Resa graduated from The University of Toronto with her Bachelor of Music Degree. She then became an Itinerant Music Instructor (IMI) for the Scarborough Board of Education. When she and her husband started a family, she put both teaching and playing her flute on hold to be a full-time mom.

During those years Resa taught private piano lessons and had a cottage industry clothing business, but her flute remained in its case. After twenty years she finally picked up her flute and joined a community band. She then returned to the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) as an IMI, led workshops as a flute specialist, and conducted ensembles for the TDSB and Toronto Music Camp.

Returning to music, Resa realized how much she and others who had abandoned their instruments missed it. She saw an opportunity to create a fun, social atmosphere for adults to rediscover making music, aligning with the Resa's Pieces motto. Now in its 26th season, Resa's Pieces consists of five ensembles: Concert Band, String Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, and Resa's Pieces Singers, which includes a small chamber choir called The Treblemakers.

In addition to her official role as Concert Band Conductor and Music Director for Resa's Pieces, Resa conducts a unique flute ensemble, The Enchanted Flutes, and plays her flute with The Encore Symphonic Band.

In 2014, Resa received the Urban Hero Award for her tireless, dedicated efforts that have made a significant positive impact on others. **Classes:** *Advanced Band, Flute Ensemble*



Brent Rowan is a professional community musician. As a Guelph, Ontario, Canada based saxophonist, Brent performs in a wide variety of musical collaborations; including 2009 and 2015 Juno Nominated Eccodek, Big Bands, smaller jazz combos, and creative music ensembles. Brent has performed and recorded all across Canada, the UK and Germany, at music festivals in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and London England to name a few. He has released three recordings of his own compositions; "It's About Time" in 2006, "IZ" in 2012 and "Where is Local" in 2016. Brent composes and arranges music for many of the groups he directs. He is the founding

director of both the Guelph Youth Jazz Ensemble and the New Horizons Band for Guelph. Brent has taught in the Community Music Program at Wilfrid Laurier University and jazz saxophone at the University of Guelph. He is also a clinician and adjudicator at music camps and festivals throughout southern Ontario, specializing in saxophone and improvisation concepts.

Brent holds a Master of Arts in Critical Studies in Improvisation, from the University of Guelph 2021, a Master of Arts in Community Music, from Wilfrid Laurier University 2015, a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance from Humber College 2005 and a Bachelor of Mathematics from the University of Waterloo 1996. Brent is currently a PHD student in Critical Studies in Improvisation at the University of Guelph. **Classes:** *Intermediate Band, Advanced Jazz Ensemble, All Instrument Jazz Ensemble*



Lisa Kapp, a retired high school English/Dramatic Arts teacher, had a rich teaching career spanning 30 years in public and private schools in Ontario and Turkey. Lisa's retirement is filled with diverse interests including golf, DIY reno projects, reading, gardening, and hooking (yep - ask her about it!).

Lisa's creative passion extends to community theater where she actively participates in several roles including actor, singer, choreographer, and director. In a band setting, despite her

background as a flute player, Lisa gravitates toward the bells and whistles of the percussion section.

For REMI, Lisa will be teaching as well as working in the background to help ensure things run smoothly and everyone has a rewarding camp experience. **Classes:** *Line Dancing, Bucket Rhythm Workshop*



Phillip Coonce has built a remarkable career as a violinist, conductor, and educator. He began with a Bachelor of Music from the University of New Mexico, followed by a Master of Music from SUNY at Stony Brook in 1980, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Manhattan School of Music. He also completed coursework for a Master of Music in Improvisation at the University of Michigan.

Phil has studied under renowned teachers such as Leonard Felberg, Raphael Bronstein, Timothy Eddy, and Yehudi Menuhin, greatly influencing his artistic development and mastery of the violin.

As a conductor, Phil has led and developed the Resa's Pieces String Orchestra in Toronto. His orchestral experience includes serving as the 1st Violin Section of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, Assistant Concertmaster of the Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de México, and Assistant Concertmaster of the New York City Opera National Company. He also held positions with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic and the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra.

Phil has been a Concertmaster for esteemed ensembles like The New York Grand Opera, Brooklyn Philharmonic Outreach Concerts, Opera Ebony, Hoboken Chamber Orchestra, and The Spoleto Festival. His freelance engagements include performances with the New Jersey Symphony, Jupiter Symphony, Martha Graham Dance Company to name a few. Phil has also played in New York Broadway Productions such as La Cage aux Folles and Gypsy.

As an accomplished chamber musician, Phil has performed with groups like Asphodel (Baroque Ensemble), Right as Rain (Bluegrass Trio), La Camerata de México, Hudson Chamber Players, Cantabile Piano Trio, Brooklyn Bach Festival, The Hand Me Downs (Bluegrass Band), Toronto Drushva String Quartet, and numerous freelance engagements.

Phil's dedication to teaching is evident through his roles as Faculty and Music Director at Playweek West, Faculty at Princeton Playweek and Playweek Mid-Atlantic, and Faculty at Summertrios.

With a career spanning decades, Phil continues to inspire and influence the world of music through his exceptional talent, dedication, and passion. **Classes:** *Full Orchestra, String Orchestra, Exploring Popular Music Styles*

An invitation: Please come join us for this exciting REMI music camp at Port Elgin. It will be fun, educational, you will play with many wonderful like-minded people and you can't beat the location!

REGISTER NOW BY CLICKING HERE!



presented by the


Roy Ernst Music Institute
Music Education for the Adult Musician