

REMI Canada 🇨🇦

Music Camp at Port Elgin

Ontario, Canada

July 13-17, 2026



Administration

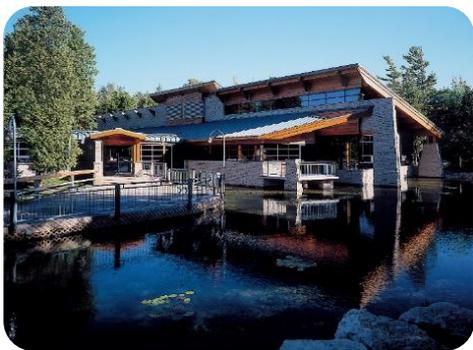
Co-Directors: Roy Ernst, Dan Kapp

Assistant Directors: Pat Dugan, Lisa Kapp

Location: **Port Elgin** is a welcoming lakeside town set along the stunning shores of Lake Huron in Bruce County, Ontario. Renowned for its spectacular sunsets, sandy beaches, and strong sense of community, this charming destination blends natural beauty with relaxed small-town living. Home to roughly 7,000 residents, Port Elgin offers a friendly, laid-back atmosphere that makes visitors feel right at home.

Downtown Port Elgin features an inviting mix of local shops, cafés, and restaurants, creating a vibrant and walkable core. During the summer, the Farmers' Market adds even more energy, showcasing fresh local produce, artisanal foods, and handcrafted goods. Outdoor enthusiasts will find plenty to explore, from lakeside walking and cycling paths like the North Shore Trail to well-maintained parks and recreation areas—making Port Elgin an ideal destination for both relaxation, adventure and music making.

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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 large modern bathroom, one or two queen-sized beds with all linens and even beach towels provided. Rooms include a sitting area, small fridge, microwave 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 are on the same level. There is an elevator to access dining hall, pub and some of the rooms. 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 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, Small Ensemble Coach

Dan Kapp – Lindsay, Ontario - Co-Director, Voices Together!, Small Ensemble Coach

Pat Dugan – Dunedin, Florida - Assistant Director

Lisa Kapp – Lindsay, Ontario - Assistant Director, Line Dancing

Dr. Brent Rowan – Guelph, Ontario - Advanced Band, Improvisation and Communication

Dr. Gillian MacKay – Toronto, Ontario - Advanced Band, Introduction to Conducting

Shawn Hills – Cobourg, Ontario - Intermediate Band, Rhythm Bucket Workshop

Donna Dupuy – Cambridge, Ontario - Intermediate Band, Music Theory

John Williams – Guelph, Ontario - Harmonica 101, Introduction to Klezmer Music, Floating Clarinet Coach

Dr. Patricia Wheeler – Cookstown, Ontario - Advanced Jazz Ensemble, All Instrument Jazz, Floating Sax Coach



Large Ensembles

Intermediate Band - The difficulty level of the music will be easy and intermediate. Conductors: Donna Dupuy, Shawn Hills

Advanced Band - For players who want to be challenged with music that is more difficult; intermediate to advanced.
Conductors: Gillian MacKay, Brent Rowan

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 royerst1@gmail.com

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: Patricia Wheeler

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: Patricia Wheeler

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: Shawn Hills

Harmonica 101 – An introduction to the harmonica for absolute or near beginners - a little joy that fits in your pocket! We'll learn from scratch with fun group breathing and rhythm exercises. We'll approach how to play a scale, simple folk melodies, and even look at the blues style, making joyful sounds together in a group setting. You will need a 10 hole diatonic harmonica in “C”. These are readily available at your local music store or online for about \$20. Instructor: John Willams

Improvisation and Communication - If music is a language, how can we develop skills for deeper dialogue when creating music? These sessions will explore practical methods of building the communication abilities that are critical to understanding musical improvisation. Improvisation is not just for jazz musicians. All of us improvise at some level every day. We will explore musical activities and music that highlight the importance of speaking clearly and listening deeply. Instructor: Brent Rowan

Introduction to Conducting - So you have ever looked at a conductor and thought: “That looks like fun,” or “That looks easy,” or “What on earth are they doing?” If you care to find out a little bit more, come check it out! We will be doing a bit of basic conducting, learning about beat patterns, how to learn a score, and how to move expressively. Who knows, maybe you'll get the conducting bug! Batons provided. Instructor: Gillian MacKay

Intro to Klezmer Music – Open to all instruments, come learn Klezmer melodies and rhythms. This vibrant and lively music originally from Eastern European Ashkenazi Jewish culture is so colourful and expressive! We'll talk about the particular modes of klezmer music, the various rhythms, forms and ornamentation, and learn a few tunes to play together as an ensemble. Instructor: John Willams

Line Dancing like you've never seen before! In this fun-filled workshop you'll be moving to toe-tapping tunes! 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

Music Theory - Playing music is the best! Understanding what you are playing and being able to communicate with others about it is even better! Enter music theory... Learn the basics of chord structures, cadences and how the notes and rests work together to make music. This course is for learners who have a basic understanding of music rudiments and can read in both the treble and bass clefs. Bring a pencil for activities. Instructor: Donna Dupuy

Voices Together: Singing for Fun and Connection – Join us for a joyful course designed for “mature” instrumentalists looking to discover or expand the power of their voices. Over three engaging hours, participants will learn essential vocal techniques while building confidence through group singing. This supportive environment encourages camaraderie and fosters new friendships as you explore the joy of singing together. Embrace the opportunity to enhance your social networking skills as you develop a passion for singing! Instructor: Dan Kapp



Self-Directed Small Ensembles (Mixed Level) - Join us for free-time small ensembles from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, where you can team up with fellow campers to create your own trios, quartets, and more! We will have some sheet music and two awesome coaches on hand to help out. It's the perfect chance to develop small-group playing skills and have a blast making music together. Our small ensemble music library is limited so we encourage you to bring your repertoire along to share with your group! Coaches: Roy Ernst and 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.



Camp Schedule

Monday, July 13

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

7-8:30 PM – First large ensemble rehearsals

Intermediate Band in Bob White Room

Advanced Band in Anishinaabe Hall

Daily Schedule Tuesday to Thursday, July 14-16

	Anishinaabe Hall	Bob White Room	Classroom	Classroom	Classroom
9-10:30	Advanced Band Rowan/MacKay	Intermediate Band Dupuy/Hills			
10:30-11:00	Break				
11:00-12:00	Advanced Jazz Ensemble Wheeler	Intro to Klezmer Music Williams	Intro to Conducting MacKay	Voices Together Kapp	Music Theory Dupuy
12:00-1:00	Lunch				
1-2:00	All Instrument Jazz Wheeler	Improvisation & Communication Rowan	Harmonica 101 Williams	Bucket Rhythm Workshop Hills	
2-2:30	Break				
2:30-3:30	Advanced Band Rowan/MacKay	Intermediate Band Dupuy/Hills			
3:30-5:00	FREE-TIME				
4-5:00	Self-Directed Small Ensembles with Coaching (Roy and Dan)				
5:00-6:30	Dinner				
7:00-8:00	Line Dancing L. Kapp				
8:00 PM	Sunset at the Beach				

Thursday, July 16 – 6:30 PM -Small Ensemble Concert

Friday, July 17 Morning's Schedule

9:30 AM - Farewell Concert in Anishinaabe 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 25, 2025**.

The first step is to register. That will reserve a place for your instrument in the large ensemble and classes you select. There is a chance that there may be wait-lists for some instruments and choices. If that does occur, we will reach out to you immediately to figure out how to resolve the situation. Register early to avoid disappointment.

Once your fee is paid you will receive a welcome letter and your seat will be guaranteed. First come, first served. Thank you.

Instructional Fee

Your instructional fee covers the cost of teachers, rental of rehearsal rooms and classrooms, rental of percussion and other equipment.

(Fees are in Canadian Funds)

Instructional Fee, Nonsubscribers*	\$505
Instructional Fee, REMI subscribers (\$40 discount)	\$465

NOTE: If you are an **active Band Director**, we have a special discount for you. Write Dan Kapp at danatremicamp@gmail.com for full details.

Room and Board

Note: 13% HST will be added at payment
Exchange rates will apply for USD payments (USD= CDN X .7 approx.)

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you choose a “**Shared Room**” you are responsible to find your roommate and letting us know who that is on your registration form.

Staying On-Site: All “rooms” are suites

Private Room + 3 meals a day	\$340/day (total \$1360)
Shared Room + 3 meals a day	\$265/day (total \$1060)
Couple Room + 3 meals a day for both partners	\$415/day (total \$1660)

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.

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 an IHG Hotel – 7 minutes from Unifor
1208 Goderich St Building, Port Elgin, ON, (519) 832-2227
Phone: + 519-832-2227 **Group rate for REMI is \$299/night (\$219 USD)

Travelodge by Wyndham, 3 minutes from Unifor,
235 Goderich St. Port Elgin, ON, (509)-832-2021
Expedia rate \$112/per night (\$79 USD)

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 luxury suites.



Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made **on or before April 15th**: payments will be refunded 100%.

Cancellations made **after April 15**: payments will be refunded minus a \$50 admin fee.

There will be **NO REFUNDS** on cancellations **after June 1, 2026**

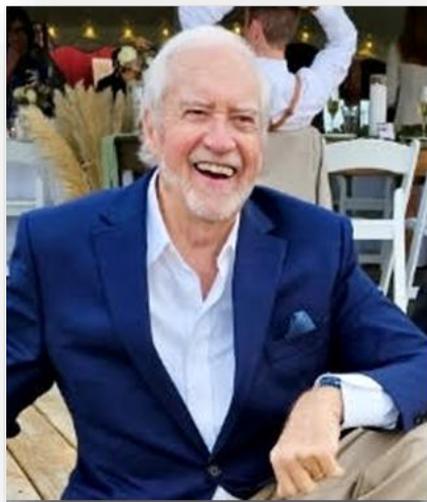
Send cancellation requests directly to royernst1@gmail.com

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!



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 honours 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: *Camp Co-Director, Coaching Free-Time Small Ensembles*



Dan Kapp holds a BFA (Performance: trumpet) from York University, a B.Ed from Queen’s University, and pursued further studies at OISE, University of Toronto. He brings 40+ years of professional experience in performance, teaching, conducting, and leadership, having worked in Canada, Turkey, the US, and Latin America.

Dan has served as Musical Director and conductor in professional and community settings and has taught and conducted at band camps across Canada and the US. In 2010 he founded and directed the New Horizons Band of Toronto. Dan is delighted to return to Port Elgin Music

Camp with Roy, eager to reconnect with old friends and make new ones in a beautiful setting. **Classes:** *Camp Co-Director, Voices Together, Coaching free-time small ensembles.*



Donna Dupuy (Belwood, ON) has worked as a music educator for 30+ years (middle school to university), in Canada and the US. Donna taught with the New Horizons Band of Toronto and New Horizons Band Guelph for eight years. She is currently the Band Director at Newton's Grove School in Toronto.

Donna earned her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the University of North Texas and is currently pursuing her MBA at the Edinburgh Business School. Donna is a bassoonist. She has performed with the San Angelo Symphony and the University of North Texas Faculty Winds.

Donna's random musical interests include listening to 80s rock in her car and identifying the make/model of bassoons and cymbals in recordings, by ear! She moonlights as a lifeguard and aquatic leadership trainer. In her spare time, she loves gardening, hiking, reading and is a passionate knitter. **Classes:** *Intermediate Band, Music Theory*



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:** *Intermediate Band, Bucket Rhythm Workshop*



Gillian MacKay is Professor of Music at the University of Toronto, where she conducts the Wind Ensemble and teaches conducting. She serves as Associate Conductor of the Jack Long National Honour Band, held in conjunction with MusicFest Canada each year. Dr. MacKay has adjudicated and guest conducted in Canada, USA, Asia and the UK. As a conducting pedagogue, she has led the annual University of Toronto Wind Conducting Symposium since 2006, and has been the guest instructor at symposia in Canada and abroad.

Gillian's research interests have taken her to adjacent areas of study, and she has been a student of mime, clown, and Michael Chekhov Acting Technique. These explorations have been fed by a desire to bring character and expressivity to the gestural language of conducting, and joy to rehearsal. Her current research is in principled non-violence, with the goal of engaging the profession in a conversation about our toleration of casual violence in wind band repertoire.

Gillian has been honoured twice by the Canadian Band Association, receiving both their National and International Awards. Gillian earned degrees and diplomas from University of Lethbridge, University of Calgary, McGill University, and Northwestern University. **Classes:** *Advanced Band, Intro to Conducting.*



Patricia Wheeler has performed throughout North America with such diverse artists as Michael Burgess, Ronnie Hawkins, Alex Pangman, Regis Philbin, and Serena Ryder. She is a long-time member of the JUNO Award® winning Neufeld-Occhipinti Jazz Orchestra, and has contributed to the pit orchestra of the Shaw Festival Theatre in historic Niagara-on-the-Lake through several productions.

Patricia holds a PhD in Music, and when not performing, is the Big Band Director for the New Horizons Band of Toronto and a professor of composition and film music history at Toronto Metropolitan University and Centennial College. **Classes:** *Advanced Jazz Ensemble, All Instrument Jazz, Sax Coach*



John David Williams is a musician and teacher based in Guelph, Ontario. He plays and teaches the clarinet, harmonica, and diatonic accordion.

Growing up, John had the great honour of studying with the renowned clarinetist and educator Avrahm Galper, and then he studied classical clarinet at the University Toronto.

John's ears and heart turned towards acoustic traditional musics of various kinds: Blues, Klezmer, Traditional Jazz, Fiddle folk dance music! The love of these traditions brought him to study the harmonica and accordion as well as expand his clarinet playing beyond his classical roots.

He has played, recorded, and toured with many acclaimed and award winning bands including Lemon Bucket Orkestra, Jaron Freeman-Fox and the Opposite of Everything, and The Boxcar Boys. Most recently, with Vinta (a quartet that plays music for European folk dancing) John and his bandmates are the recipients of the Canadian Folk Music Award for Instrumental Composers of the Year for their album "Beacons". **Classes:** *Harmonica 101, Intro to Klezmer, Clarinet coach*



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 theatre 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.

During this REMI camp, Lisa will be teaching as well as working in the background to help ensure things run smoothly and everyone has a rewarding camp experience. **Class:** *Assistant Camp Director, Line Dancing*



Brent Rowan completed a PhD in Critical Studies in Improvisation from the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, 2025, 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's PhD research focused on methods of online community building through jazz improvisation in real-time. Dr. Brent Rowan continues to explore the impact of how engaging in artistic practice contributes to developing a sense of health wholeness and resiliency.

In addition to working with his amazing wife on Rowan Grove Farm, Brent is the musical director for the New Horizons Guelph Band program and teaches jazz improvisation at the University of Guelph.

Brent has performed and recorded 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", "IZ" in and "Where is Local". He is the founding director of both the Guelph Youth Jazz Ensemble and the New Horizons Band for Guelph. He is also a clinician and adjudicator at music camps and festivals throughout southern Ontario, specializing in saxophone and improvisation concepts. **Classes:** *Advanced Band, Improvisation and Communication*



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

REGISTER NOW BY CLICKING [HERE!](#)



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