

MusiCounts Teacher of the Year

2023/24 Nomination Guidelines



Photo: MusiCounts Teacher of the Year nominees at the 2023 JUNO Awards with MusiCounts Staff

Program Overview

The MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award was established in 2005 to recognize and honour an exceptional Canadian music teacher each year. This award is generously presented by Anthem Entertainment.

To date, this award has celebrated the accomplishments of 18 music educators across Canada who strive to preserve the livelihood of music education in their school and community.

Nomination Process

School administrators, colleagues, parents and students may nominate eligible educators (see below) for the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award.

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The nominator is responsible for completing and submitting a completed Nomination Form via the MusiCounts Grant Portal by the deadline of **December 4, 2023**.

In addition to outlining some general information about the nominee, the nominator will need to provide the following to complete the Nomination Form:

- 1) **1 letter of nomination**, prepared by the nominator. This may not exceed 2 pages in length, and must be submitted as a PDF.
- 2) **2 letters of recommendation**, prepared by others who are familiar with the nominee's teaching. Each letter of recommendation may not exceed 1 page in length, and must be submitted as a PDF.

To begin a Nomination Form, [click here](#).

To log in to the MusiCounts Grant Portal and edit an existing Nomination Form, [click here](#).

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to receive the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award:

- Nominees must be a practicing music educator in Canada.
- Nominees must have at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- Nominees must have prepared and successfully received a MusiCounts Band Aid Program grant on behalf of their current school, or a school they have taught at in the past.

Evaluation Criteria and Key Attributes

The MusiCounts Teacher of the Year should possess the following Key Attributes:

1. **Passion.** The MTOY should demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to teaching, and should have a demonstrated history of providing meaningful musical experiences for students.
2. **Advocacy.** The MTOY should be a strong advocate for preserving quality music education in Canadian schools through fundraising, voicing their passion for music education on different committees and boards, etc.

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3. Experience. The MTOY's teaching should reflect a prolonged dedication to music education and student impact.
4. Inclusivity. The MTOY should ensure students of varying backgrounds and skill levels have the opportunity to learn, experience and appreciate music.
5. Adaptability. The MTOY should have a proven track record of adapting and diversifying their teaching practices to keep up with changing student needs. The MTOY will also have established creative ways to maintain meaningful music education experiences for their students during the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. Recognition. The MTOY should have the support, respect and admiration of students, parents, administrators and colleagues. They should be regarded as a leader in their community and a mentor in their field.
7. Inspirational. The MTOY should make tangible and positive differences in the lives of students, with the ability to motivate, challenge and encourage them to be more confident creators and appreciators of music

Selection Process

From the initial pool of nominations received, a finalist pool of 5 nominees is determined by an adjudication committee. Adjudicators make their selection based on the nominees' alignment with the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Key Attributes (see above).

All nominees and nominators are notified of the outcome of the first round of the adjudication process before the Winter break.

Over the Winter break, the 5 finalist nominees are asked to submit additional materials which discuss their experience and approach to teaching music. These materials are typically due in January.

A committee of music education leaders from across the country reviews each of the finalist nominee's materials--along with the initial nomination materials--and make their recommendation for who they believe should receive the award.

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The recipient of the 2024 MusiCounts Teacher of the Year will be announced during JUNO Week in Halifax, NS this March.

New: Teachers who are selected as one of the five Finalist Nominees for the 2023/24 MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award will not be eligible to be nominated for the Award in 2024/25. Finalist Nominees in 2023/24 who do not win the Award may be nominated for the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award again in 2025.

Contact Info

If you have any questions, please reach out to Nick Godsoe, Director, Programs & Education at nick@musiccounts.ca