

VERNON PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL 2026 MUSIC SYLLABUS

FESTIVAL DATES

- Strings: March 6-9 2026
- Voice : Mar 9-11, 2026
- Piano: March 4-9, 2026
- Gala Concert: TBD

REGISTRATION

- Opens: Nov 15, 2025
- Closes: Jan 6, 2026

GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION

Teachers, participants and parents are responsible to familiarize themselves with the syllabus and rules before registering. Failure to comply with the general rules will result in disqualification. In case of disqualification, fees will not be refunded.

1. ELIGIBILITY

- Competitors must be bona fide residents of the Southern Interior of British Columbia.
- All classes, unless otherwise specified, are open to amateurs only. The term “amateur” means one whose principal income is not derived from the discipline being entered. This condition does not apply to conductors of choirs or choral groups, nor to those bona fide students of music, who teach for the purpose of applying the money so earned to the furtherance of their musical education.

2. ENTRY INFORMATION

- Be sure to provide complete information. Include your instrument name where applicable, the categories, and class names, titles of selections, composer, and accurate performance times for each selection.
- A participant can enter the festival as either competitive or non-competitive. This designation is identified by clicking on it, in the on-line registration form. Participants who choose to enter non-competitively will receive comments from the adjudicator for their performance, but will not receive a mark, or be eligible for awards. They are scheduled separately from the competitive classes.
- Entries (with the exception of Non-Competitive, Ensembles, and certain designated Vocal categories) must be taken from the current or one previous Royal Conservatory or Conservatory Canada syllabus.
- Participants are responsible for entering the correct classes. The festival cannot be responsible for detecting errors.
- Pieces must be played as entered; no changes will be accepted. A selection in the wrong category will receive adjudication only. No mark will be given.

- Levels of all entries are determined from either the Royal Conservatory of Music or Conservatory Canada current or one previous syllabus. If a piece has changed levels or is listed differently in different syllabi, the *current RCM syllabus* determines the level. Pieces entered at the incorrect level or not from the above syllabi, will be disqualified.
- Students must enter at the level in which they are currently studying.
- The level must be consistent in all classes entered except where specified, such as in concert class, where one piece can be one level higher, or ensembles which are entered *at the level of the most advanced player*.
- Age of the competitor is determined as of December 31st before the upcoming festival.
- Adults aged 23 and above may enter competitively or non-competitively, but are not eligible for scholarships and awards.

3. COPYRIGHT REGULATIONS

- Only original scores or copies authorized by copyright owners may be used at Festival venues.
- The performer must provide the adjudicator with an original score or authorized copy of the selection to be performed
- Accompanists, Directors, Groups, and Soloists must use original copies in performance venues.
- Use of unauthorized copies will result in disqualification. If a student is found to be using a photocopy, they will receive an adjudication only with no mark and the piece will not qualify for scholarships.
- Authorized copies must be accompanied by a letter of authorization from the copyright holder which must be given to the secretary at the time of performance.
- If a selection is in the public domain, a letter confirming this fact is required from the publisher along with permission to copy.
- The use of internet downloaded music is permissible if it states on each sheet "Public Domain" OR there is a receipt of purchase attached to each piece downloaded, verifying the purchase. If membership in a site provides free use of the material downloaded, proof of membership MUST be provided. Music downloaded from the free website imslp.org is permitted. Please write the full URL of the work being performed on the first page of all parts and copies being used
- The Vernon Performing Arts Festival allows photocopies for the purposes of page turns, but the full score MUST still be present at the performance venue, in addition to an original copy for the adjudicator.
- Vocal scores may be transposed to suit voice ranges if copied "by hand" - the original score must be present.

4. PERFORMANCE SCHEDULING

- Number of entries and level will determine class divisions
- The festival cannot accommodate a participant's or teacher's requests for preferential scheduling
- Festival classes may be scheduled for any day of the week

- The Festival Committee reserves the right to eliminate, combine, sub-divide or create classes as deemed necessary or to refuse any entry
- Except for non-competitive classes, participants may only enter once in any class, but are encouraged to enter several classes.

5. ADJUDICATION

- Teachers, participants, parents of participants, or members of the audience should have no unauthorized communication with the Adjudicator prior to or during the festival.
- Unauthorized communication with an Adjudicator by the participant or their parents or teacher will result in disqualification of the participant..
- The Adjudicator shall have discretionary power to stop any performance at any time.
- In all matters of adjudication, the Adjudicator's decision shall be final.
- No protest or complaint may be addressed directly to any adjudicator.

6. VENUES

- Unless a special room is provided, NO part of the venue may be used for practice during the festival.
- Family and friends of the performer and the performer must remain in the areas designated for festival participation.
- Absolutely no food or drinks are allowed into any venue
- Talking and entering/exiting the venue are not permitted during a performance
- All mobile devices should be silenced in the performance space.

7. PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES

- Erase all marks and notations on books
- Number the first measure of each line on the music provided for the adjudicator.
- Arrive at the venue at least 15 minutes before scheduled performance time.
- When your name is called, hand your book to the Adjudicator's Secretary before proceeding to the performance floor or stage.
- Performances must be from memory to qualify for scholarships and awards, with the exception of ensembles and the Strings Sonata class. If music is used, marks will be deducted accordingly.

8. ACCOMPANIMENT

- Strings and Vocal performances must be accompanied by piano, with the exception of unaccompanied solos and self-accompanied vocal classes.
- Participants are responsible for arranging their own accompanist.
- Pre-recorded accompaniment tracks are not permitted

9. SCHOLARSHIPS

- Categories of scholarships and awards are determined on an annual basis, based on entries.

- To be eligible for any individual scholarships, a student must enter at least 2 competitive classes, excluding ensembles, and, with the exception of the Strings Sonata classes, must perform from memory.
- Ensembles do not need to perform from memory to be eligible for awards.
- Determination of scholarships is based on a student's top 2 marks of 85 and above, excluding ensembles, and at the discretion of the adjudicator.

PROCEDURE FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Please double check the accuracy and spelling of your entry, as what you type in is what will be printed. No changes or substitutions may be made after registration or at the time of performance.
- It is the responsibility of competitors and teachers to follow the Rules & Regulations of the Festival. Entries are the responsibility of competitors and teachers. Errors or omissions are not the responsibility of the festival.
- Participant Information
 - Name
 - Telephone number
 - Email address
 - Birthdate
- Teacher Information
 - Name
 - Email address
- Entry Information
 - Full Title, including opus number, movements, where applicable
 - Composer
 - Performance time (length)
 - Syllabus from which piece is taken (year of RCM or CC syllabus)
- Payment
 - Payment must be made at the time of registration
 - Payment is online only

PIANO

Refer to the General rules and information section at the beginning of this syllabus for more information. Students may enter competitively or non-competitively.

Pre-Level One Piano

- Students may enter more than one piece in this category
- Selections do not need to be from a recognized syllabus

Junior Piano (Levels 1-4)

- **Solo Classes:**
 - Baroque
 - Classical
 - Romantic
 - 20th/21st Century (excludes Canadian)
 - Canadian
 - Additional Repertoire (additional repertoire from a category in which the student is already registered)
- **Concert Class**
 - 2 or 3 contrasting selections - one piece may be one level higher. The performance receives a single mark, which is used in determination of the student's top 2 marks **(limited to 7 minutes)**

Intermediate Piano (Levels 5 - 7)

- **Solo Classes:**
 - Baroque
 - Classical
 - Romantic
 - 20th/21st Century (excludes Canadian)
 - Canadian
 - Additional Repertoire (additional repertoire from a category in which the student is already registered)
- **Concert Class**
 - 2 or 3 contrasting selections - one piece may be one level higher. The performance receives a single mark, which is used in determination of the student's top 2 marks **(limited to 10 minutes)**

Senior Piano (Levels 8 – ARCT)

- **Solo Classes:**
 - Baroque
 - Classical (must perform all movements required by syllabus)
 - Romantic
 - Impressionistic
 - Early 20th c.
 - Later 20th/21st c.

- Additional Repertoire (additional repertoire from a category in which the student is already registered)
- **Concert Class**
 - 2-3 contrasting selections, one may be one level higher. The performance receives a single mark, which is used in determination of the student's top 2 marks **(limited to 20 minutes)**

Ensembles *(most advanced player should submit entry)*

- **Junior Duet/Trio**
 - most advanced performer is in Level 4 or lower
- **Intermediate Duet/Trio**
 - most advanced performer is in Level 5-7
- **Senior Duet/Trio**
 - most advanced performer is in Level 8-ARCT

PIANO ENTRY FEES

	Pre-Level 1	Junior (Level 1-4)	Intermediate (Level 5-7)	Senior (Level 8-ARCT)
Solo Classes * excluding Levels 10-ARCT Classical	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$35
Level 10 Classical				\$40
ARCT Classical				\$50
Concert Class		\$50	\$60	\$70
Duet/Trio		\$30	\$30	\$30

STRINGS

Refer to the General rules and information section at the beginning of this syllabus for more information. Students may enter competitively or non-competitively. Participants are responsible for arranging their own accompanist.

Pre-Level 1 Strings

- Students may enter more than one piece in this category
- Selections do not need to be from a recognized syllabus

Junior Strings (Levels 1-4)

- **Solo Classes:**
 - Baroque
 - Unaccompanied Bach
 - Unaccompanied Solo
 - Classical (other than sonata or concerto)
 - Concerto/Concertino(10-15 minutes)
 - Romantic
 - Canadian
 - 20th/21st century (excludes Canadian)
 - Additional Repertoire
- **Concert Class**
 - 2 or 3 contrasting selections - one piece may be one level higher. The performance receives a single mark, which is used in determination of the student's top 2 marks **(limited to 7 minutes)**

Intermediate Strings (Levels 5 - 7)

- **Solo Classes:**
 - Baroque
 - Unaccompanied Bach
 - Unaccompanied Solo
 - Classical (other than sonata or concerto)
 - Concerto/Concertino(10-15 minutes)
 - Sonata/Sonatina (movements required by RCM)
 - Romantic
 - French
 - Canadian
 - 20th/21st century (excludes Canadian)
 - Additional Repertoire
- **Concert Class**
 - 2 or 3 contrasting selections - one piece may be one level higher. The performance receives a single mark, which is used in determination of the student's top 2 marks **(limited to 12 minutes)**

Senior Strings (Levels 8 – ARCT)

- **Solo Classes:**
 - Baroque
 - Unaccompanied Bach
 - Unaccompanied Solo
 - Classical (other than sonata or concerto)
 - Concerto/Concertino (20-25 minutes)
 - Sonata/Sonatina(movements required by RCM)
 - Romantic
 - French
 - Canadian
 - 20th century(excludes Canadian)
 - Additional Repertoire
- **Concert Class**
 - 2-3 contrasting selections, one may be one level higher. The performance receives a single mark, which is used in determination of the student's top 2 marks. (limited to 20 minutes)

String Ensembles

- Duet (*most advanced player should submit entry*)
 - Junior (most advanced performer in level 1-4)
 - Intermediate (most advanced performer in level 5-7)
 - Senior (most advanced performer in level 8-ARCT)
- Chamber Ensemble (3-9 performers).
 - 2-3 contrasting selections.
 - Average age 14 & under, 15 min. Limit.
 - Average age 17 & under, 20 min. Limit
 - Average age 28 & under, 25 min. limit
- Community String Ensemble (max 20 performers).
 - 2-3 contrasting selections
 - 15-20 min.
- Youth Community Orchestra (over 20 performers).
 - 2-3 selections.
 - 15-20 min.

STRINGS ENTRY FEES

	Pre-Level 1	Junior (Level 1-4)	Intermediate (Level 5-7)	Senior (Level 8-ARCT)
Solo Classes * <i>excluding levels 5 and up sonata and concerto</i>	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$35
Level 5-7 Sonata/Concerto			\$35	
Level 8-9 Sonata/Concerto				\$40
Level 10+ Sonata/Concerto				\$45
Concert Class		\$50	\$60	\$70
Duets		\$30	\$30	\$30

Chamber Ensemble	\$12 per person
Community String Ensemble	\$100
Youth Community Orchestra	\$200

GUITAR

Pre-Level 1 Guitar

- Students may enter more than one piece in this category
- Selections do not need to be from a recognized syllabus

Junior Guitar (Levels 1-4)

- **Solo Classes:**
 - Renaissance/Baroque
 - Bach
 - Classical
 - Concerto (Max 15 minutes)
 - Romantic
 - Canadian
 - 20th/21st century (excludes Canadian)
 - Spanish
 - Jazz/ Contemporary
 - Additional repertoire
- **Concert Class**
 - 2 or 3 contrasting selections - one piece may be one level higher. The performance receives a single mark, which is used in determination of the student's top 2 marks (limited to 15 minutes)

Intermediate Guitar (Levels 5 - 7)

- **Solo Classes:**
 - Renaissance/Baroque
 - Bach
 - Classical
 - Concerto (Max 20 minutes)
 - Romantic
 - Canadian
 - 20th/21st century (excludes Canadian)
 - Spanish
 - Jazz/ Contemporary
 - Additional repertoire
- **Concert Class**
 - 2 or 3 contrasting selections - one piece may be one level higher. The performance receives a single mark, which is used in determination of the student's top 2 marks (limited to 20 minutes)

Senior Guitar (Levels 8 – ARCT)

- Renaissance/Baroque
- Bach
- Classical
- Concerto (Max 25 minutes)
- Romantic
- Canadian
- 20th/21st century (excludes Canadian)
- Spanish
- Jazz/ Contemporary
- Additional repertoire
- **Concert Class**
 - 2 or 3 contrasting selections - one piece may be one level higher. The performance receives a single mark, which is used in determination of the student's top 2 marks **(limited to 20 minutes)**

Guitar Group Classes

- **Duets/ Trios/ Quartets** (*most advanced player should submit entry*)
 - Junior (most advanced performer in level 1-4)
 - Intermediate (most advanced performer in level 5-7)
 - Senior (most advanced performer in level 8-ARCT)
- **Ensemble** (5 or more performers- *most advanced player should submit entry*)
 - Junior (most advanced performer in level 1-4)
 - Intermediate (most advanced performer in level 5-7)
 - Senior (most advanced performer in level 8-ARCT)
2-3 contrasting selections.
- **Family Music** (non-competitive)

This class is provided to foster music in the home and is open to 2 or more family members of one family. Accompanist must be a member of the family

 - 2-3 contrasting selections
 - Max 10 min.
- **Community Music** (non-competitive)

This class is provided to foster music in the community and is open to 2 or more participants who are from more than one family.

 - 2-3 selections.
 - Max 10 min.

GUITAR ENTRY FEES

	Pre-Level 1	Junior (Level 1-4)	Intermediate (Level 5-7)	Senior (Level 8-ARCT)
Solo Classes * <i>excluding levels 5 and up sonata and concerto</i>	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$35
Level 5-7 Concerto			\$35	
Level 8-9 Concerto				\$50
Level 10+ Concerto				\$70
Concert Class Level 7-8				\$80
Level 9- ARCT Concert				\$100

Duets	\$30
Trios	\$45
Quartets	\$60

Ensemble	\$15 per person (Max \$75)
Family Music	\$15 per person (Max \$75)
Community Music	\$15 per person (Max \$75)

VOCAL

Refer to the General rules and information section at the beginning of this syllabus for more information. Students may enter competitively or non-competitively.

Selections must be taken from the current or one previous Royal Conservatory or Conservatory Canada syllabus, with the exception of: Non-Competitive, Musical Theatre, Musical Production, Pop and Modern, Jazz, Self-Accompanied, and Original Composition.

Levels may be further subdivided by age:

Age 10 and under

Age 11-14

Age 15-17

Age 18-22

Age 23+

Pre-Level One

- Entries do not need to be from a recognized syllabus

Junior Voice: Levels 1-6

- **Classical**
 - Folk Song
 - Pre-1900
 - 20th/21st Century (excluding Canadian)
 - Canadian
 - Additional Repertoire
- **Concert Class**
 - 2-3 contrasting selections, one may be one level higher. The performance receives a single mark, which is used in determination of the student's top 2 marks
 - **Limited to 7 minutes**
- **Musical Theatre**
 - Comedy
 - Ballad
 - Additional Repertoire
- **Musical Production**
 - 2 contrasting selections from stage/play productions or motion picture musicals
 - **Limited to 10 minutes**
- **Contemporary (non-competitive)**
 - Pop and Modern
 - Jazz
 - Self-Accompanied
 - Additional Repertoire
- **Original Composition (non-competitive)**

Intermediate Voice: Level 7-8

- **Classical**
 - Baroque and Classical
 - Romantic and Post-Romantic
 - 20th/21st Century (excluding Canadian)
 - Canadian
 - Additional Repertoire
 - Concert Class
 - 2 or 3 contrasting selections - one piece may be one level higher. The performance receives a single mark, which is used in determination of the student's top 2 marks
 - Limited to 12 minutes
- **Musical Theatre**
 - Comedy
 - Ballad
 - Additional Repertoire
 - **Musical Production**
 - 2 contrasting selections from stage/play productions or motion picture musicals
 - Limited to 15 minutes
- **Contemporary (non-competitive)**
 - Pop and Modern
 - Jazz
 - Self-Accompanied
 - Additional Repertoire
- **Original Composition (non-competitive)**

Senior Voice: Level 9-ARCT

- **Classical**
 - Baroque and Classical
 - Romantic and Post-Romantic
 - 20th/21st Century (excluding Canadian)
 - Canadian
 - Opera
 - Oratorio
 - Additional Repertoire
 - **Concert Class**
 - 2 or 3 contrasting selections - one piece may be one level higher. The performance receives a single mark, which is used in determination of the student's top 2 marks
 - Limited to 20 minutes
- **Musical Theatre**
 - Comedy
 - Ballad

- Additional Repertoire
- **Musical Production**
 - 2 contrasting selections from stage/play productions or motion picture musicals
 - **Limited to 20 minutes**
- **Contemporary (non-competitive)**
 - Pieces do not need to be from a recognized syllabus
 - Pop and Modern
 - Jazz
 - Self-Accompanied
 - Additional Repertoire
- **Original Composition (non-competitive)**

Ensembles

- **Duet/Trio** (*most advanced performer should submit entry*)
 - Junior (most advanced performer in Preparatory - Level 6)
 - Intermediate (most advanced performer in level 7-9)
 - Senior (most advanced performer in level 10-ARCT)

VOCAL ENTRY FEES:

<i>*Categories are determined by age as of Dec 31, 2024</i>	Pre-Level 1	Level 1-6	Level 7-8	Level 9-ARCT
Single Entries	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$35
Concert Class		\$50	\$60	\$70
Musical Production		\$50	\$60	\$70
Duet/Trio		\$30	\$30	\$30

CHORAL

- The competition is based on two or three contrasting selections, one of which may include a brief solo or solo ensemble passages. The total bars for a solo or solo ensemble passage may not exceed 10% of the total score.
- One selection may be one or more movements of a multi movement work.
- Only one folk song is permitted.

Total Time: 30 minutes for warm up, performance and adjudication

Choirs are responsible for their own accompaniment. Recorded accompaniments are permitted.

Choirs must stay for the duration of their class. Directors, please ensure students observe proper concert etiquette.

School Choirs:

The members of the school choir must all be from the same school. Split grade classes are entered in the higher grade category.

- Grade 4 & under
 - unison
- Grade 6 & under
 - one selection sung in two parts is strongly recommended
- Grade 8 & under
 - at least one selection sung in two or more parts
- Grade 10 & under
 - at least one selection sung in three or more parts
- Grade 12 & under
 - at least one selection sung in three or more parts

Community Choirs:

Ages are determined as of December 31, preceding the festival

- 12 and under
 - at least one selection sung in two parts is encouraged but not necessary
- 16 and under
 - at least one selection sung in two or more parts
- 19 and under
 - at least one selection sung in three or more parts
- 19 and over (the majority of the members must be 19 or over)
 - at least one selection sung in three or more parts
- Seniors Community Choir
 - Two or three contrasting selections
- Mixed Community Choir (no age restriction)
 - Two or three contrasting selections

Vocal Ensemble

- limited to 4 to 10 singers

CHORAL ENTRY FEES:

School Choir	\$100
Community Choir	\$100
Vocal Ensemble	\$12 per person