

2027
Syllabus

www.albertamusicfestival.org

ABOUT US

The Alberta Music Festival Association (AMFA) is an association of Local Music and Speech Festivals throughout Alberta. AMFA's Mission Statement is: To promote and develop music and speech arts in Alberta through performance and workshop-style adjudications.

Competitors enter their Local Festivals and have the opportunity to win Local Festival scholarships and receive recommendations to perform/compete at the Alberta Provincial Music Festival. The Alberta Music Festival Association is organized and operated by an Elected Executive chosen from representatives of member Local Festivals. A full listing of the AMFA Executive can be found on the AMFA website at **www.albertamusicfestival.org**.

If you have specific questions regarding the Alberta Music Festival, please contact:
Wendy Durieux, Provincial Administrator
20 Valiant Crescent, Olds, AB, T4H 0A7
Phone: (403) 559-6166; Email: info@albertamusicfestival.org

MEMBER FESTIVALS

Contact information for each Local Festival can be found on the AMFA website (www.albertamusicfestival.org). Each Local Festival has unique entry procedures, entry deadlines, and festival dates. To learn more about a specific Local Festival, please refer to the AMFA website or contact the Local Festival you are interested in entering.

AMFA's current Local Festival members:

**Festivals offering classes in Dance*

Airdrie Rotary Festival of Performing Arts
Barrhead Rotary Music Festival
Bow Valley Music Festival
Brooks Music Festival Association
Calgary Performing Arts Festival
Calgary Vocal Festival
*Camrose and District Music Festival
Cardston Rotary Performing Arts Festival
Cold Lake Music Festival
*Coronation Music Festival Association
Crowsnest Pass Music Festival
Drayton Valley Performing Arts Festival
*Drumheller and District Music Festival
Edmonton Music and Speech Arts Festival
Fort McMurray Oilsands Rotary Music Festival
Grande Prairie and District Music Festival
Highwood Lions Music Festival
Lac La Biche and District Music Festival
Lacombe and District Music Festival
Leduc Music Festival Association
Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival
Medicine Hat Rotary Music Festival
North Peace Performing Arts Festival
Olds and District Kiwanis Music Festival
Parkland Music Festival
Pathways Program (Southern Alberta)
Provost Music Festival Association
Red Deer Festival of the Performing Arts
St. Albert Rotary Music Festival
Sherwood Park Music Festival
*Stettler and District Music Festival
Strathmore Performing Arts Festival
Vermilion and District Music Festival Association
Wetaskiwin Music Festival
*Whitecourt Rotary Music Festival
Yellowknife Music Festival

FIND AMFA ONLINE

Visit AMFA online at **www.albertamusicfestival.org**
Find us on Social Media – Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlbertaMusicFestivalOrganization
X (formerly Twitter): @MusicAlberta Instagram: @abmusicfestivalassociation

October 27, 2026

Dear Local Festivals, Teachers, and Competitors,

There have been several edits made to the 2027 AMFA Syllabus. There are minor changes to both **Rules Governing Local Festivals** and **Rules Governing The Provincial Festival**.

The definitions of **Competitor** and **Movie Musical** have been clarified in the **Glossary.**

Provincial Class Time Limits have been modified in nearly all disciplines.

Additions & Edits to the LOCAL FESTIVAL SYLLABUS:

PIANO BY AGE

- Additional age categories were added for LATE ROMANTIC, IMPRESSIONISM, and PRELUDE & FUGUE classes.

PIANO BY GRADE

- Additional grade categories were added for LATE ROMANTIC classes.

SPEECH

- Additional age categories were added for PUBLIC SPEAKING SOLO classes.

CCM VOCAL SOLO

- Restrictions on covers and self-written selections were added to OWN CHOICE, CANADIAN COMPOSERS, and CONCERT classes.
- BROADWAY SOLO classes have been added.

Additions & Edits to the PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL SYLLABUS:

PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- $50 Second Place Scholarships have been added to all Provincial Classes.

CCM VOCAL

- 15 & UNDER class has been added.

MUSICAL THEATRE DUET

- 14 & OVER class has been deleted.
- 17 & UNDER class has been added.
- 28 & UNDER class has been added.

Rule Addition in both the LOCAL FESTIVAL SYLLABUS and the PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL SYLLABUS:

MUSICAL THEATRE

- Selections in Musical Theatre classes must have been originally performed by the character in the scene and not be a background track in the original production.

Rule Edits in the PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL SYLLABUS:

PROVINCIAL SPEECH and MUSICAL THEATRE VOCAL

- "Only the stage props provided at the Provincial Festival are allowed to be used."

PROVINCIAL MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO and DUET

- "Tap Dancing: Competitors who incorporate tap dancing as part of a musical theatre selection must supply their own tap board and may only tap on the tap board."

PROVINCIAL MUSICAL THEATRE DUET

- "Provincial Festival will provide the following stage props: 2 chairs, 2 boxes, 1 table. Only the stage props provided at the Provincial Festival are allowed to be used."

PROVINCIAL RECORDING REGULATIONS AND DEADLINE

- Video recording/s (for sung Chorus, Choral Speech, and Percussion), must be uploaded to YouTube as an UNLISTED video and the link sent to the Provincial Administrator (for each video being submitted). The recording must include the original membership (and conductor) as originally registered at the Local Festival.
- A PDF or JPEG scanned copy of the work/s which must include a picture of the cover or proof of purchase.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Steeves

Carolyn Steeves
Vice President, Alberta Music Festival Association

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accompaniment – A subordinate part for instruments, voices, or ensembles — usually piano; although, one or more instruments are allowed in some classes.

Amateur – A person whose principal means of livelihood is not obtained from teaching, performance, and/or producing in the discipline in which they are competing.

Aria – An elaborate, accompanied, vocal solo from an opera, operetta, oratorio, or cantata.

Art Song – The Art Song was a creation of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and continues into the 20th and 21st centuries. Composers were inspired to write music to enhance existing poetry. These songs were written for voice with accompaniment (usually piano).

Associate Standard – Refers to a selection of advanced difficulty that must be of at least post-Grade/post-Level 10 or equivalent level/standard. Lists are available in the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) and Conservatory Canada (CC) syllabi.

Ballad/Traditional Air – *See Traditional Air*

Baroque Music – Music composed in or around the Baroque Period, circa 1600-1750.

Canadian Composer/Author – A composer/author born in Canada, one who has resided in Canada for at least five years, or a naturalized citizen.

Canadian Poetry – Published poetry written by a Canadian author (including those works that are in books printed at direct cost by the author).

Canada West Performing Arts Festival (CWPAF) – The CWPAF is a partnership between the Provincial Festival Associations of British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan and the CWPAF features the top amateur music and speech arts competitors from each partnering province's provincial performing arts festival. Competitors compete in three different age categories in a variety of solo disciplines as well as Chamber and Chorus/Choral. Eligibility requirements may be found in the CWPAF syllabus.

Chamber Music – Refers to music written for two, three, four, or more performers played with one instrumentalist to a "part" with all the parts having equal importance.
See Ensemble

Choral Speech – Is the speaking of a piece of literature by a speech choir. It differs from Choric Drama in that the prime emphasis is on telling the story, rather than acting it out. The focus is on the language and the speaking of the text. There is no movement around the stage, but gestures and simple in-place movements may be used. Variety may be provided through the division of voices, use of solo voices, the physical arrangement of the choir, use of props, and the suggestion of a simple costume.

Choric Drama – Is distinguished from Choral Speech in that the choir enacts the story, as opposed to just telling the story through language. The choir may use theatrical elements such as dialogue, characterization, and movement around the stage. Solo voices are featured and blocking (grouping) of individual speakers may be incorporated. Other theatrical elements such as scenery, costumes, and props may be used.

Chorus – A group of eight (8) or more singers performing as a single unit. Each vocal line of music must have at least two singers singing the part.

Class – Each discipline is divided into sub-categories by instrument, and/or by age, and/or by grade level. Each "class" is identified by a five-digit number in the Local Syllabus and by a three-digit number in the Provincial Syllabus.

Classical Music (referred to as "Classical" in the Syllabus) – Refers to music of a serious nature which may include a variety of repertoire found in method books (for Piano By Grade, all repertoire must also be graded by Royal Conservatory of Music or Conservatory Canada for entry in the festival). Does not include pop, movie, TV, or musical theatre repertoire. Not limited to the "Classical Period."

Classical Period – Music composed in or around the Classical Period, circa 1750-1820.

Classroom Music – Music designed to portray the many facets of the elementary school program. Singing is the main emphasis, but some movement/creative dance, and limited use of simple instruments is required. Costumes and stage props may be used.

Community Band/Orchestra/Chorus – A group of instrumentalists or singers performing as a unit. The term also refers to a group whose members come from two or more schools and who have been selected on the basis of performing ability.

Competitor – An individual who enters and performs at the festival. A **Group Competitor** is two or more individuals performing as a single unit, such as a duet, chorus, or other group.

Composition (Music) – Music composed by the competitor. Music Composition submissions must include complete manuscript.
See Manuscript

Concert Band – A group of musicians playing woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments under the direction of a conductor.

Concerted Work – Any composition originally written for solo instrument with orchestral accompaniment. In festivals, a piano provides the orchestral part.

Concerto – A composition written in several movements usually for solo instrument with orchestral accompaniment. In festivals, a piano provides the orchestral part.

Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Vocal – Is non-classical in style and includes Pop, Rock, Gospel, Jazz, Motown, Disco, R&B, Rap, Punk, Emo, Poetic (folk-style), and all Country genres. Generally refers to music that is created for commercial purposes (recording artists through major labels, etc.) Does NOT include Musical Theatre or any Classical repertoire. Description of genres:

- **Contemporary Sacred:** Sacred music performed by a solo performing artist or a sacred group in the popular style. This is music typically heard on sacred radio.
- **Country:** Music derived from or imitating the folk style of the South or the West. Country Music is typically characterized by simple harmonies, repeated choruses, and often narrative lyrics, usually accompanied by stringed instruments (such as guitar, fiddle, banjo, etc.).
- **Disco:** A genre of dance music and subculture popularized in the 1960s and 1970s, characterized by syncopated bass lines, strings, horns, electric piano, synthesizers, and electric rhythm guitars.
- **Emo:** A subgenre of rock music focused on emotional expression. Lyrics are deeply personal and often a confession, and songs tend to use irregular song structures and extreme dynamics.
- **Folk:** Combines the traditional elements of folk music with the instrumentation and energy of rock music.
  See Folk Song
- **Jazz:** Jazz is characterized by swing rhythm and blue notes, complex harmony, syncopated rhythms, and regularly features improvisation/scat singing.
- **Motown:** A style of Rhythm & Blues (R&B) from the 1960s, named after the Motown Record Company in Detroit. Known for its polished songwriting, strong rhythm, layered instrumental sound, and memorable hooks.
- **Poetic (Folk Style):** Poetic and lyrical texts (often original lyrics written by the recording artist with the intellectualism of classical literature and poetry) which are usually set to basic chord changes.
- **Praise/Worship:** Music written in a popular style, originally written for use in congregational settings with the anticipation of the congregation joining in the music.
- **Punk:** Emerging in the mid-1970s, Punk rejects mainstream rock excessiveness and instead uses short, fast-paced, aggressive songs with hard lyrics, often political and anti-establishment in tone.
- **Rap:** Rhythmic and rhyming speech that is chanted over a beat.
- **R&B (Rhythm and Blues):** A style of music originating in African-American communities in the 1940s. Elements of pop, gospel, and blues paired with driving rhythms.
- **Sacred R&B/Traditional Gospel:** Gospel is a popularized form of impassioned rhythmic spiritual music rooted in the solo and responsive church singing of African Americans in the Southern United States, central to the development of Rhythm and Blues and of Soul music.

Copyright – Copyright is a form of legal protection given to creators of original works, granting them exclusive rights to control how their work is used, including reproduction, distribution, and adaptation.

Creative Story Telling – The story may be either an original work by the performer, or a traditional story, folk tale, family tale, legend, fable, or myth. Entrants submit a brief plot outline to the adjudicator. Appropriate sounds, props, and/or movement may be incorporated into the performance provided there is no disruption of the smooth delivery of the story. The performance MUST be in the teller's own words.

Discipline – A discipline is a particular area of musical or speech study. A discipline may be for a group such as Band and Chorus or may be for a soloist such as piano, vocal, speech, and a number of different instruments.

Disqualification – Non-compliance of any rule may result in disqualification. For the Provincial Festival, disqualified competitors may complete their performance and will receive an adjudication and participation certificate, but shall not be eligible to receive any award, mark/placing, or Canada West recommendation for any class in which they were disqualified.

Dramatic Improvisation – The unified presentation of an idea or theme through action and dialogue. It must be spontaneous, unscripted and have clarity and purpose.

Duet – Two individuals performing different parts as a unit.

Duologue – A speech selection for two individuals performing different parts.

Ensemble – A small group which may vary in size and instrumentation, from duets and trios to larger groups like orchestras or choruses/choirs. In Chamber classes, an Ensemble is 2-6 performers at the Local and Provincial Festival.

Family Music – Music performed by a group all of whom are members of the same family. The accompanist MAY be a member of the same family.

Fiddle – Any instrument which has strings and is played with a bow, typically a violin. Fiddle music is typically written for dancing, with associated quick note changes, whereas "classical" music tends to contain more vibrato and sustained notes. Fiddle music is also open to improvisation and embellishment with ornamentation at the player's discretion.

Finger-Style Guitar – Describes a manner of playing in which the fingertips are used to pluck the strings.

Flamenco Guitar – Describes accompaniments used in gypsy folk songs and dances of Spanish music.

Folk Guitar – Describes accompaniments of folk songs employing simple chords and arpeggios. Includes Blues.

Folk Song – Music which has entered into the heritage of the people and which can usually be assigned to no composer, school, or period. It has been fashioned and refashioned through many generations by countless individuals and was usually passed on orally.

Full Orchestra – A large group of musicians performing as a unit and using string, woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments.

General Classes – Syllabus classes NOT identified as "School classes." General classes are intended for students receiving private lessons. In a choral/chorus context, general classes may include non-school choral/chorus groups or school groups from two or more schools selected on the basis of ability.
See School Classes

Gesture – Movement of the hands and arms, that clarifies or emphasizes the meaning and emotional content of a performance.

Grade/Level – In Piano By Grade classes, grade/level refers to the grade or level the piece is classified as in a recognized syllabus. In most school classes, grade may also refer to the school grade of the competitor. In Band and Orchestra, grade refers to the level of the repertoire played by the ensemble.

Graphic Score – A graphic score uses images, shapes, and pictures instead of traditional music notation. Composers use graphic scores to express musical ideas that could not be described by traditional notation.

Grievance – A formal complaint.

Group Competitor – Two or more individuals performing as a unit.

Group of Classes – A competitor may enter only once in a single class or *Group of Classes*. A Group of Classes is determined by a single heading in each discipline. For example, in Piano, "PIANO SOLO – OWN CHOICE" and "PIANO SOLO – BAROQUE" are two separate groups/headings.

Group Study – A method of teaching a group collectively rather than teaching each person individually.

Handbell – A musically tuned bell with a handle made of leather or plastic that allows it to be held in the hand.

Handchime/Tonechime – A metal tube slotted and cut to produce a musical sound.

Impressionism – The style of music composed at the time of Debussy and continued by his followers. It conveys moods and emotions aroused by the subject rather than portraying a detailed tone poem.

Instrumental – Generally refers to the string, woodwind, brass, and percussion families, but may include the singing voice and the speaking voice as separate instruments.

Lead Sheet - A form of musical notation that specifies the essential elements of Contemporary Commercial Music: the melody, lyrics, and harmony (chord symbols). The melody is written in modern Western music notation, the lyrics are written as text below the staff, and the harmony is specified with chord symbols above the staff. *Lead Sheets are not suitable for submission in Music Composition classes.*

Level – *See Grade/Level*

Lieder – A distinctive type of German vocal solo composition that was an outcome of the Romantic Movement of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In Lieder, the quality of the verse is very important. The piano part is more than an accompaniment and, like the vocal part, demands artistic interpretation.

Light Opera/Operetta – A type of comic or light-hearted opera often containing spoken dialogue.

Lyric Poetry – Is distinguished by its intense personal feeling and unified by the poet's consistent response to an incident or idea. Lyric poetry frequently exhibits a graceful, fluid rhythm and an evocative pattern of sound. It is reflective poetry, and although a lyric may relate an incident or episode, the story element is of secondary importance. Movement and gesture, if any, should be restrained and should never draw attention away from the language.
See Narrative/Dramatic Poetry

Madrigal – A composition for several voices, performed unaccompanied. The texts of a madrigal are usually secular.

Manuscript (for Music Composition) – Manuscripts must include full notation of melody and harmony or be a complete graphic score. Chord charts, lead sheets, or other incomplete manuscripts will not be accepted at the Local or Provincial Festival for any Composition classes.
See Graphic Score

Medley – A piece composed from parts of existing pieces, played one after another, sometimes overlapping.

Mime – A silent art form that uses body and face as instruments of communication. The art of mime is based on careful and sensitive observation, and the translation of that observation, along with thoughts and emotion into movement and expression so as to express a mood or present a scenario. The performer must communicate character, storyline, location, and emotion clearly. Skills such as economy of movement, eye focus, the ability to position objects, and maintaining consistency of distance are vital. While classical mime skills may be incorporated into the mime work, the focus is on the piece as an artistic whole — as a scene driven by personal communication.

Mixed Chorus/Choir – A group of singers of different voice parts performing as a unit, typically SATB or SAB.

Modern – Music composed in or around the Modern Period, circa 1900-present. For Speech, works written after 1850. For Musical Theatre, dates of publication 1965-1989.

Movie/TV Music – *See Pop Music*

Music Composition – *See Composition*

Musical Theatre – A staged production, recognized revue, or movie musical that incorporates the elements of acting, song, and movement. Does not include opera or operetta.
See Music Theatre Definitions
See Revue

Musical Theatre Definitions –

- **Ballad –** A ballad is characterized by the legato feeling of the music. A ballad contains reflective lyrics that causes the character (or character they are singing to) to re-examine their priorities. Generally, a ballad will contain sustained notes and emphasize longer musical lines and phrasing. The majority of a ballad will generally feature tempo markings such as largo, andante, adagio, etc.
  See Up-Tempo
- **Cabaret** – A Revue or other song in the Musical Theatre genre, but NOT from a staged production or movie musical.
- **Golden Age** – Musical Theatre music with a date of publication from 1943-1964.
- **Contemporary** – For purposes of AMFA, Musical Theatre music with a date of publication from 1990-present.
- **Modern** – Musical Theatre music with a date of publication from 1965-1989.
- **Movie Musical** – A Movie Musical is a motion picture in which songs sung by the characters are interwoven into the narrative, often accompanied by movement or dancing. *Please Note: Sometimes the Movie Musical and the Staged Production versions of the same show contain different musical selections.*
- **Tin Pan Alley/Early Broadway** – Musical Theatre music with a date of publication 1942 or prior.
- **Up-Tempo** – An Up-Tempo selection contains comedic or deft lyrics and may feature complaint or self-pity. Up-Tempo may feature a lively dance break. Music is often of a quicker tempo. The majority of the selection will generally feature tempo markings such as fast, lively, allegro, etc.
  See Ballad

Narrative/Dramatic Poetry – Poetry that tells a story and stresses plot and action. It often contains dialogue, characterization, and conflict. Although narrative/dramatic poetry may contain lyrical or descriptive passages, it usually minimizes or ignores the poet's expression of personal feelings. Movement and gestures should flow naturally from the text and the performer's interpretation.
See Lyric Poetry

Obbligato – An accompaniment that has a distinct character and independence providing special or unusual effects, and is an integral part of the composition.

Operatic Aria – *See Aria*

Operetta – *See Light Opera/Operetta*

Oratorio – Drama which may be sacred or secular and is set to music. It contains all the elements of an opera, but is seldom staged.

Original Poetry – Poetry written and performed by the competitor.

Partner Song – Two different songs that have a similar harmonic structure and length, so they may be sung together.

Piano Quick Study – A class in which a competitor performs a selection within 24 hours of receiving the music.

Plectrum Guitar – Describes a manner of playing in which a small piece of plastic (pic) is used to strum the strings.

Pop Music – Pop music, short for popular music, is a genre characterized by its broad appeal and commercial orientation. It often features catchy melodies, simple song structures, and rhythms conducive to dancing, making it accessible to a wide audience. Includes theme music from movies and television.

Private Lessons – Regular scheduled instruction on a continuing basis under the guidance of a recognized instructor receiving compensation for such instruction.

Production Number – A vocal presentation assisted by a background ensemble.

Professional – A person whose principal means of livelihood is obtained from the performance, teaching, or production of music or speech in the particular discipline in which they are competing.

Props – Objects used to enhance a presentation usually in musical theatre, solo speech, choral speech, and choric drama. Props may be hand-held (a purse, a glass, a mop), or be stage props (a rehearsal block, a table, a chair). Stage props are set up before the performance begins. In all cases, props should be simple, limited in number, and an integral part of the performance.

Prose Solo – A prose selection may be fiction or non-fiction from a published story, essay, novel, etc.

Public Domain – Works by a composer or author that has been deceased for at least fifty years. Public Domain works can be copied/used without license. Copyright laws change regularly so the competitor must do their due diligence to ensure a work is in the Public Domain if they intend to use it as such.

Published – Music or speech works prepared and issued for public sale or readership.

Quartet – Four individuals performing different parts as a unit.

Quintet – Five individuals performing different parts as a unit.

Readers Theatre – A form of group interpretation that can represent the staging of all kinds of literature. It is a presentational, non-realistic form of production that includes the audience's imaginative participation as a scripting and staging principle. It emphasizes the experience in the text and appeals to the audience's ability to imagine. The actors may be seated, movement is limited, and scripts may be used as props.

Recognized Revue – A recognized revue is a revue that always includes the same repertoire and has been given an official name for the revue (such as *The All Night Strut!, Diamonds, How to Eat Like a Child,* etc.). Recognized revues are not staged musicals for the purposes of the Canada West Performing Arts Festival.
See Musical Theatre
See Revue

Revue – A topical, satirical theatrical entertainment consisting of a series of scenes having a central theme, but no plot.
See Musical Theatre
See Recognized Revue

Rhythm Band – A group of performers playing very simple instruments, usually percussive. A component of the elementary school program.

Romantic Music – Music composed in or around the Romantic period, circa 1820-1900.

Sacred – A selection using a religious theme or a religious text set to music. For all classes except for Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Vocal or Musical Theatre, it should be "classical" in style, but NOT an oratorio.

Sacred Reading – The oral communication, in English, of a passage taken from any faith's holy text.

School Band/Orchestra/Chorus – A group, usually from one school, performing as a unit. For School Chorus, there must be at least eight singers.

School Classes – Intended for students receiving musical or speech instruction in a classroom setting. This does not preclude receiving extra coaching from their school teacher. Students receiving private lessons may not enter classes identified as "school classes" unless part of a group entry.
See Private Lessons

Sea Shanty – A song originally sung by sailors or those on the coast. Similar in origins to a folk song.

Selected Voice Chorus/Choir – A chorus whose members are selected or "hand-picked." The standard of performance is higher than that which is expected of an unselected chorus.

Selection –

- Music selections include:
    - A stand-alone piece of music.
    - One, and only one, stand-alone portion of a song cycle.
      See Song Cycle
    - One, and only one, piece from a collection of pieces, or as prescribed as a requirement in either the Royal Conservatory of Music or Conservatory Canada syllabus.
    - One movement of a multi-movement composition: e.g.: sonata, concerto, or concerted work.
- Speech selections include all items as listed in the Local Festival Syllabus.

Sight Singing/Reading/Playing – The performance of a selection by a competitor who has had only a few minutes of preparation.

Solo – A selection or part of a selection performed by a single performer or single member of an ensemble.

Sonata – A composition usually written in three or four movements for solo instrument with or without piano accompaniment. The solo instrument and accompaniment are of equal importance; although, generally, only the soloist is adjudicated.

Song Cycle – A song cycle is a group, or cycle, of individually complete songs designed to be performed in a sequence as a unit. A specific, individual selection within a song cycle will usually be performed in a solo selection class (rather than multiple movements of such song cycle). *For AMFA purposes, Solo Motet Cycles are considered Song Cycles.*

Sonnet Sequence – Two sonnets with a similar theme, not necessarily by the same author.

Special Study – Classes for competitors who are in the beginning stages of study.

Spiritual – A song of a deeply religious or emotional character that originates during times of slavery. Often derived from the combination of European hymns and African musical elements.

Story Telling – *See Creative Story Telling*

String Orchestra – A group of musicians using only string instruments, and performing as a unit.

Traditional Air – A narrative poem, often of unknown origin and written in short stanzas. Was originally sung to a repeated tune.

Transcription – The arrangement of a composition originally written for one instrument but adapted for another.

Transposition - Playing or writing music in a way that makes it sound higher or lower. This can be done by playing or writing the music in a different key, or by playing or writing it up or down an octave, without changing the key.

Trio – Three individuals performing different parts as a unit.

Unaccompanied – A selection written for solo or group, and performed without instrumental assistance.