

Canada West Performing Arts Festival

RULES AND SYLLABUS 2026



INTRODUCTION

Competitors entering the *Canada West Performing Arts Festival (CWPAF)* must be recommended by an adjudicator at the Provincial festival (AB, BC, SK) in the province where they live or study. Competitors are responsible for all costs/arrangements for travel, meals, accompanists, equipment (except pianos) and accommodation.

Competitors must read and comply with all CWPAF rules and are strongly encouraged to read this document fully and prepare their programs in accordance with the rules therein.

CLASSES OFFERED (Maximum competitors, per province, shown in parentheses)

CLASSICAL VOCAL

- 13 and Under (3)
- 17 and Under (3)
- 22 and Under (3)

PIANO

- 13 and Under (3)
- 17 and Under (3)
- 22 and Under (2)

STRINGS

- 13 and Under (3)
- 17 and Under (3)
- 22 and Under (2)

WOODWINDS

- 17 and Under (3)
- 22 and Under (3)

BRASS

- 17 and Under (3)
- 22 and Under (3)

CLASSICAL GUITAR

- 13 and Under (3)
- 17 and Under (3)
- 22 and Under (3)

SPEECH

- 13 and Under (3)
- 17 and Under (3)
- 22 and Under (3)

MUSICAL THEATRE

- 13 and Under (3)
- 17 and Under (3)
- 22 and Under (3)

CHAMBER

- 17 and Under (3)
- 22 and Under (2)

CHORAL

- Community/School – Age 13 & under (3)
- Community/School – Age 16 & under (3)
- Community/School – Age 20 & under (3)

ENTRY FEES

\$250 per solo/chamber entry

\$150 per choral entry

ENTRY DEADLINE AND PROCESS

Entry deadline and entry process is determined by the hosting province. Information will be posted on www.canadawestfestival.ca.

AWARDS

13 and Under Classes:	1 st Place \$800
17 and Under Classes:	1 st Place \$1,000
22 and Under Classes:	1 st Place \$2,000
Choral Classes:	1 st place \$500

Second Place (Runners-up) and Third Place (honourable mentions) will also be announced in classes with multiple entrants; however, only the winner of the class will receive a monetary award.

RULES

GENERAL

1. **Rules:** Competitors must read and comply with all festival rules. Non-compliance of any rule may result in the disqualification of the competitor. Information for specific disciplines (exclusions, special rules, etc.) may be found under the description of certain disciplines and should also be observed.
2. **Eligibility:** The CWPAF is open to non-professional musicians who are 22 years or younger as of December 31 in the year preceding the festival. A non-professional musician is defined as a person whose principal means of livelihood is not obtained from the performance of music in the category in which they are competing. The competitor must have been recommended by an adjudicator at the Provincial Festival of a participating province.
3. **Age Calculation:** Age of competitors will be calculated as of December 31 year preceding the festival.
4. **Repertoire:**
 - i. **Music/Speech Selections:** Competitors shall perform a well-rounded program comprised of at least two works representing various styles and periods. Individual movements of multi-movement works may be included. Competitors must perform the repertoire indicated on their entry form and entry forms must be submitted complete with the names and numbers of movements identified and the full name of the composer. At least one selection performed and adjudicated at the Provincial Festival must be included. Additional repertoire may be added to fill the program time.

- ii. **Introductions:** Solo and Chamber competitors must briefly introduce themselves, their repertoire, and their accompanist (if applicable). Introductions are included in the total timing for each competitor.
5. **Time Limits:** Time limits are strictly enforced and going over time will result in the disqualification of the competitor. Timing begins when the performer begins their introduction and ends when they play/sing/perform their last note or word. Time limits include introductions, breaks between selections, tuning between selections, applause, and any costume changes. The first tuning, before the program or introductions begin, is not included in the timing. It is recommended that competitors plan for such breaks and allow time in their program for long applause, additional tuning, etc.
6. **Memorization:** Memorization is mandatory in all solo classes (including string sonatas). Memorization is not required in Chamber and Choral disciplines but is encouraged.
7. **Copyright:** Competitors must provide an original score or authorized copy of music containing solo and accompaniment in the proper key for the adjudicator. Public Domain copies (such as those sourced from IMSLP) are allowed provided the full URL is included on the title page. An original score or authorized copy must also be present for the accompanist. Anyone using digital music scores, including music purchased online, must be prepared to show proof of purchase. Speech competitors must provide authorized originals of their selections. All copyrights must be observed.

- 8. Recordings at Event:** Recordings (audio/video) and photos of performances and adjudications during the event are not allowed.
- 9. Performance Order:** Competitors may perform their selected repertoire in any order (does not have to be the order as presented in the published program). Competitors must confirm their repertoire order with the Adjudicator Secretary upon arrival.
- 10. Measure/line Numbering:** As an aid to the adjudicator, music competitors must number the first bar of each line of the music provided to the adjudicator.
- 11. Warm-Up Space:** Warming up in the performance space is prohibited. Practice rooms will be provided for the purposes of warming up.
- 12. Entry Deadline:** The entry deadline for both solo/chamber entries and choral entries is posted on the Canada West Performing Arts Festival website at www.canadawestfestival.ca
- 13. Late Entries:** Late entries will only be accepted at the express permission of the hosting province and may be assessed a late fee of \$50 over the cost of the entry fee.
- 14. Changes Past Entry Deadline:** Repertoire changes following the entry deadline will only be made with the

express permission of the hosting province and a \$25 change fee may be assessed.

- 15. Disqualification:** Non-compliance of any rule may result in disqualification. Disqualified competitors will still receive an adjudication and participation certificate but shall not be eligible for awards or placings.
- 16. Awards/Placings:** Awards and placings are determined solely at the discretion of the adjudicator for each discipline. Awards and placings will be announced at the end of each class.
- 17. Repeat Performance in Subsequent Years:** Repeat performance of any selection is not allowed for solo competitors returning in a subsequent year. Repeat performance of any selection is not allowed for Chamber groups where more than one member returns in a subsequent year.
- 18. Grievances:** Grievances, accepted in writing accompanied by a \$50 fee, will be reviewed by the Grievance Committee to be called by the President of the host province, with representation from all participating provinces. The answer to any official grievance will be provided to the complainant within 45 days of its receipt.

CLASSES

CLASSICAL VOICE SOLO

Class 100 – CLASSICAL VOICE 13 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 15-minute maximum

Class 101 – CLASSICAL VOICE 17 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 20-minute maximum

Class 102 – CLASSICAL VOICE 22 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 25-minute maximum

PIANO SOLO

- Piano concertos may not be performed.

Class 200 – PIANO 13 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 20-minute maximum

Class 201 – PIANO 17 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 25-minute maximum

Class 202 – PIANO 22 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 35-minute maximum

STRING SOLO

- “Strings” includes only violin, viola, cello, and double bass.

Class 300 – STRINGS 13 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 20-minute maximum

Class 301 – STRINGS 17 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 25-minute maximum

Class 302 – STRINGS 22 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 35-minute maximum

WOODWIND SOLO

Class 401 – WOODWIND 17 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 20-minute maximum

Class 402 – WOODWIND 22 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 25-minute maximum

BRASS SOLO

Class 501 – BRASS 17 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 20-minute maximum

Class 502 – BRASS 22 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 25-minute maximum

CLASSICAL GUITAR

Class 600 – GUITAR 13 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 15-minute maximum

Class 601 – GUITAR 17 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 20-minute maximum

Class 602 – GUITAR 22 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 25-minute maximum

SPEECH ARTS AND DRAMA

- **Costumes:** Simple (basic) costumes integral to the performance are allowed. Competitors may not leave the stage for costume changes. It is recommended that costume changes be minimal (change of hat, adding a scarf/cape, etc.). Time limits include all costume changes.
- **Props:** Hand-held props integral to the performance are allowed. An 18”x18”x18” rehearsal block will be provided and will be the only stage prop allowed.
- **Setting the Scene:** Speech competitors must set the scene in their verbal introductions for scenes, prose, and wherever else appropriate.
- A clean-typed copy of each selection must be submitted to the adjudicator along with all authorized copies.

Class 700 – SPEECH 13 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 15-minute maximum

Class 701 – SPEECH 17 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 20-minute maximum

Class 702 – SPEECH 22 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 25-minute maximum

MUSICAL THEATRE

- **Costumes:** Simple (basic) costumes integral to the performance are allowed. Competitors may not leave the stage for costume changes. It is recommended that costume changes be minimal (change of hat, adding a scarf/cape, etc.). Time limits include all costume changes.
- **Props:** Hand-held props integral to the performance are allowed. An 18"x18"x18" rehearsal block will be provided and will be the only stage prop allowed.
- **Staged Musicals Only:** All selections must come from a published score, in any published key, of a **STAGED MUSICAL**. Selections from revues and stand-alone Musical Theatre are not allowed.
- **Tap Dancing:** Competitors who incorporate tap dancing as part of a musical theatre selection must be prepared to supply their own tap board at the request of the hosting province.

Class 800 – MUSICAL THEATRE 13 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 15-minute maximum

Class 801 – MUSICAL THEATRE 17 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 20-minute maximum

Class 802 – MUSICAL THEATRE 22 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 25-minute maximum

CHAMBER

- **Instruments:** Type of instrument must be stated on entry form. A combination of any recognized orchestral instruments with or without piano is allowed.
- **Group Size and Formation:** Minimum of 3 performers to a maximum of 6 performers each having their own part. Each Chamber Group entry must be a unique make-up. Only one substitution (from the members who performed at the Provincial Festival) is permitted for a Chamber Group.
- **Piano Part:** When piano is included, the piano part must be original and not an orchestral reduction.
- **Memorization:** Memorization is not required in this class but is encouraged.

Class 901 – CHAMBER 17 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 25-minute maximum

Class 902 – CHAMBER 22 AND UNDER CATEGORY

Time Limit: 35-minute maximum

CHORAL

- **Group Formation:** Each choir shall consist of eight (8) or more members and must be the same choir, conductor, and accompanist as in the Provincial Festival performance. No individual member of the choir may exceed the maximum age limit.
- **Entries:** Recordings and score, (as per the below requirements) must be submitted, with entry form and fee, by the entry deadline as posted on the website.
 - **Recordings:** AUDIO recordings, in mp3/mp4/m4a format (.wav files are not acceptable).
 - **Score:** A clear PDF/JPEG scanned copy of each score (including a picture of the cover).
- **Enhancements:** No acoustic or electronic compensation, filtering, or other enhancement is to be used while recording, nor should the recording be mastered in any way.
- **Time Limits:** Time limit for all Choral classes is 15-minute maximum.

Class 10 – COMMUNITY/SCHOOL – AGE 13 AND UNDER

Class 11 – COMMUNITY/SCHOOL – AGE 16 AND UNDER

Class 12 – COMMUNITY/SCHOOL – AGE 20 AND UNDER