

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

RULES DETERMINED BY LOCAL FESTIVALS

General

A. It is the responsibility of the competitor to be familiar with the *Rules Governing Local Festivals,* the Local Festival Addendum (if any), as well as the definitions of relevant terms found in the *Glossary of Terms* (found on page 75).

Local Festival Management

B. Each Local Festival is managed by a Committee. Questions concerning a Local Festival should be directed to the Local Festival contact person. Decisions of the Local Festival Committee regarding the Local Festival are final.

Local Syllabus Addendum

C. A Local Festival may establish additional classes and/or rules which must be published in the Local Addendum for such Local Festival.

Provincial Eligibility for Local Addendum Classes

D. Certain Local Addendum classes may be used to satisfy eligibility for the Provincial Festival provided such class(es) have been approved by the Provincial Administrator of AMFA. The approval process is as follows:

- Local Festival must ask for approval for Provincial eligibility by November 30 of the previous year (i.e., November 2026 for consideration for 2027 festival). Such submission must include a description of the class and rationale for why the class should be provincially eligible.
- Such approval is only valid for the coming festival year.

Residency

E. Local Festivals may set their own residency requirements for competitors performing in the Local Festival or for those receiving scholarships or provincial recommendations.
Provincial Festival Recommendation Note: *Only competitors whose residence or domicile (family home) is within the Province of Alberta or the Northwest Territories may be recommended to the Provincial Festival from the Local Festival, unless the competitor has studied in their discipline with a teacher who resides in Alberta or the Northwest Territories for a minimum of six months during the previous year. This covers lessons via Skype and/or other electronic means.*

Memorization

F. Each Local Festival sets its own regulations regarding memorization.

Sound Equipment Provided

G. Each Local Festival determines what, if any, sound equipment is provided and/or allowed.

Individuals in Group Disciplines

H. The Local Festival will set their own rules regarding individuals that enter more than one class as part of a duet or larger instrumental ensemble.

Graded Piano Entries

I. Unless otherwise allowed by the Local Festival, solo competitors entering Piano By Grade may only enter under a single grade.

Grading System/Markings

J. The Local Festival may use any grading system of their choosing or may use the following grading system:

- 90% and Over — Superior
- 85%-89% — Distinction
- 80%-84% — Honours
- 79% and Below — Merit

Disqualification

K. Each Local Festival reserves the right to disqualify any competitor who is not ready to perform when called, exceeds the time limit, or due to another breach of the rules. *Local Festivals should have a clearly established procedure regarding disqualification.*

Protests/Grievances

L. A protest/grievance may only be considered if it is made in accordance with the regulations established by the Local Festival.

RULES GOVERNING LOCAL FESTIVALS

General

1. **Rules:** It is the responsibility of the competitor to be familiar with the *Rules Governing Local Festivals,* the Local Festival Addendum (if any), as well as the definitions of relevant terms found in the *Glossary of Terms* (found on page 75).
2. **Refusal of Entries:** Local Festival/s reserve the right to refuse any entry.

Competitors

3. **Age:** The age of a competitor is established as of December 31 of the year preceding the Local Festival.
4. **Amateur Performance:** The AMFA festival movement is intended for "amateurs." Please refer to the *Glossary of Terms* (found on page 75) for a definition.
5. **Limits on Class Entry:** A solo/group 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.
6. **Limits on School Class Entry:** A solo competitor taking private music lessons may not enter solo School classes.

Piano Competitors

7. **Piano Plan Restrictions:** Solo competitors entering Piano By Age may not also enter Piano By Grade. Solo competitors entering Piano By Grade may not also enter Piano By Age.
8. **Graded Piano in Subsequent Years:** Solo competitors entering Piano By Grade may not enter a lower grade in any subsequent year. Entering the same grade in a subsequent year is permitted.
9. **Piano Eligibility for Canada West:** Competitors in Piano By Grade are NOT eligible to receive a Canada West Performing Arts Festival recommendation at the Provincial Festival (as there is no graded piano offered at the CWPAF). Piano competitors that want to be considered for the Canada West Performing Arts Festival must enter Piano By Age at the Local Festival and continue on to the Provincial Festival. Piano Concertos are also not allowed at the CWPAF.

Selections

10. **Selection:** A *selection* is a stand-alone piece of music or text. For most provincially eligible classes, the selection must be published and all copyrights observed. For a full definition of *selection*, please refer to the *Glossary of Terms* (found on page 75).
11. **Graded Selections:** In classes using grades/levels, the syllabus from either the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) OR Conservatory Canada (CC) must be used. If an older version of either syllabus is used, the publication date of the syllabus must be included with the entry. If a chosen selection is not listed in either the RCM or CC syllabus, proof of classification on official RCM or CC letterhead must be submitted with the entry. Competitors may contact either CC or RCM and ask for a specific piece to be classified. AMFA will only accept proof of classification letters for selections not previously listed in either syllabus.
12. **Original Music and Speech Selections:** Original music and speech selections may only be entered in designated classes such as Composition, Original Poetry, etc.
13. **Studies/Vocalises:** Studies/Vocalises from RCM or CC may be placed in an era class appropriate to the date of composition.
14. **Same Selection in Future Years:** A solo or group competitor may not perform the same selection in the same Local Festival in the following two (2) festival years. **Exception:** *In Concerto or Sonata classes, the first movement may be repeated in a future year provided additional movements are added in the future year.*
15. **Selection on Same Instrument:** A solo or group competitor may only perform a specific selection once using the same instrument in a single festival year (i.e. a pianist cannot enter the same selection in both a single-selection class and a recital class).
16. **Time Limits:** In classes where time limits are not indicated, selection/s must not exceed 20 minutes. **Exception:** *Complete Concerto, Complete Sonata, or Complete Partita classes.* ***Provincial Festival Note:*** *Classes at the Provincial Festival have time limits corresponding to age/grade levels.*

17. **Medleys:** Medleys are not allowed. **Exception:** *Published medleys are accepted in Chorus classes.*
18. **Transpositions:** Transpositions are permitted but any transposed selection must be marked with the key in which it will be performed. **Exception:** *The following classes do not allow transpositions: Classical Vocal Solo – Bach Aria*, *Classical Vocal Solo – Opera, and Classical Vocal Solo – Oratorio.*
19. **Cuts:** Cuts in selections are allowed provided they make sense in the context of the larger work and are clearly marked in the score.
20. **Speech Submissions:** In addition to providing an authorized copy of each selection performed, all speech competitors must provide a clean, typed copy of each selection for the adjudicator. **Exception:** *For Creative Story Telling or Public Speaking classes, an outline is required for the adjudicator (rather than the exact text spoken).*
21. **Date Ranges:** Date ranges for specific periods (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, etc.) are for the purposes of the AMFA syllabus only. For all Local festivals, selections should be entered into the appropriate class as per the date ranges as presented in the AMFA syllabus.
22. **Musical Theatre Selections:** 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.
23. **Musical Theatre Classification:** For Musical Theatre entries, selections must be entered in a Ballad or Up-Tempo class as per the repertoire classification listed in the AMFA Musical Theatre List. Selections entered into the wrong category will not be accepted. **Note:** Selections not listed in the AMFA Musical Theatre List may be entered into Ballad or Up-Tempo as deemed appropriate by the competitor.

Copyright

24. **Music Copyright:** Music competitors must provide a published score or authorized copy of the music containing the written solo and accompaniment for the adjudicator. Public Domain copies (such as those sourced from IMSLP) are allowed providing the full web address or a photo screenshot of the web page is included on the title page. Anyone using digital music scores, including music purchased online, must be prepared to show proof of purchase or proof of license. All copyrights must be observed. **Exception:** *Music Composition and other classes with specifically listed exemptions.*
25. **Speech Copyright:** Speech competitors must provide published or authorized versions of their selections. Public Domain copies are allowed providing the full web address or a photo screenshot of the web page is included on the title page. All copyrights must be observed. **Exception:** *Original Poetry, Creative Story Telling, and other classes with specifically listed exemptions.*
26. **AI Generated Materials:** AI (Artificial Intelligence) generated materials are not allowed in the Local Festival.

Performance

27. **Performance Participation:** No person, on or off stage, outside of the competitor may participate in a performance or coach a performance (with the exception of the accompanist playing the written accompaniment). Accompanists may only play the written accompaniment and must not speak, sing, gesture, etc. during the performance.
28. **Written Accompaniment:** Accompaniments must be played as written. **Exception:** *Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Vocal, Musical Theatre, and all other Pop/Folk classes (in any discipline).*
29. **Single Accompanying Instrument:** For all solo classes, any single acoustic instrumental accompaniment may be used.
30. **Acoustic Performance:** The Local Festival generally only allows for acoustic performance and accompaniment. **Exception:** *Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Vocal, Composition, Family/Community classes, or other exempted Local Festival classes*. It is the responsibility of the competitor to confirm with the Local Festival what, if any, equipment is provided and/or allowed.
31. **Props:** Stage and hand props are not allowed. **Exception:** *Musical Theatre and Speech allow certain stage and hand props. For a detailed description of the props allowed, please refer to the props rules listed on the first page of the specific discipline.*
32. **Recordings/Photographs:** A competitor's performance may be recorded by their guests but guests shall not record any adjudications and/or another competitor's performance. Local

Festivals reserve the right to record performances and/or adjudications where written permission has been granted.

Adjudications and Results

33. **Adjudicator Decisions are Final:** Adjudicator decisions regarding performances, marks, placings, scholarships, and Provincial Festival recommendations are final. No Local Festival, or Committee thereof, can change either the mark(s) given to a competitor by the adjudicator nor can they change any adjudicator's recommended entrants to the Provincial Festival. If such an activity is discovered, the substitute competitor shall be disqualified and a $500 fine per offense will be levied upon the offending Local Festival.
34. **Adjudicator Contact:** At no time (before, during, or after the performance or adjudication) shall the adjudicator be approached or confronted about marks, placings, or adjudications, by a competitor, parent, teacher, or other individual (with the exception of the Local Festival committee representative). Such contact may result in the competitor's disqualification.

Group Classes (Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Etc.)

35. **Minimum Chorus Membership:** Every Chorus must consist of at least eight (8) members.
36. **Solo Passages in Chorus Music:** A single solo passage is allowed in only one of the selections from a single Chorus and must not exceed 10% of the length of the selection.
37. **Movement in Chorus Music:** There is to be no movement around the stage but gestures and simple in-place movements may be used.
38. **Community Chorus Age Limit:** Every Community Chorus member must be an official (bona fide) member. The majority of community chorus membership must be within the class age limit.
39. **School Chorus Grade Range:** When a School Chorus entry contains combined grades, the grade or grade range having the largest number of students determines the class to be entered.
40. **School Chorus Auditions:** School Chorus membership may be selected by audition provided the membership is only drawn from a single school.
41. **Membership from Multiple Schools:** A School Chorus, School Band, or School Orchestra with members from two or more schools, and trained as a single unit, may compete as a school entry ONLY if the members have not been selected on the basis of performing ability. Otherwise, such auditioned school groups that are made up from singers/players of more than one school must compete as a Community group.
42. **Accompaniment in Chorus Classes:** Accompaniment in Chorus classes is limited to three (3) instruments, which may or may not include a piano. **Notes:** *A collection of non-pitched percussion instruments (i.e. ratchet, claves, rain stick, ocean drum, etc.) as specified in the score is considered one (1) instrument, and are allowed in addition to the three (3) accompanying instruments. A set of water glasses is also considered one (1) accompanying instrument.*

SCHOOL MUSIC COMPOSITION

PLEASE NOTE:

- Competitor must enter one class only and submit only one composition.
- The composition may not already have been adjudicated at this Local Community Festival in any previous year.

THE COMPOSITION AND PERFORMANCE

1. The composition manuscript must include full notation of melody and harmony or a complete graphic score.
2. Chord charts, lead sheets, or other incomplete manuscripts will not be accepted.
3. The composition will be adjudicated on the basis of originality of ideas, inventiveness, and the ability to express these ideas in a cohesive musical form.
4. The composition must be the composer's intellectual property and not be supplemented by AI (Artificial Intelligence) generated ideas.
5. A quality performance is expected, but it is the composition that will be adjudicated.
6. A Solo or Duet performance of a composition MAY be performed live or by recording.
7. Due to space restrictions, compositions having 3 (three) or more performers, or those requiring 2 (two) pianos, MUST be performed by recording.
8. If performing by recording, the competitor MUST bring his or her own equipment.
9. On performance day a copy of the manuscript and the description must be brought to the performance.

SUBMISSION:

- DO NOT SUBMIT THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT. A digital copy of the completed manuscript must be emailed to the Local Community Festival Administrator prior to the start of the Local Festival.

SCHOOL MUSIC COMPOSITION

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PROVINCIAL RECOMMENDATION

For Consideration for the Provincial Festival see Composition (non-school) section of syllabus.

ONE selection, in any style

29010	For teachers whose work will be performed by their students.
29020	For a student or students whose work will be performed by the other classroom students.