



2024

Syllabus

www.albertamusicfestival.org



RJ Chambers, Past President
10037 84 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T6E 2G6

October 31, 2023

Dear Local Festivals, Teachers, and Competitors,

The Provincial Festival is excited to announce the return to in-person choral programming in 2024! Please see below for how the decisions made at the 2023 AMFA AGM will affect the Alberta Festivals in the coming year.

2024 Syllabus Changes

Outside of minor edits and corrections, significant changes to the 2024 AMFA Syllabus include:

- **Provincial Festival Age Categories Changes:** All classes that were 9 and Under at the Provincial Festival in previous years are now 10 and Under. All classes that were 12 and Under are now 13 and Under. And all classes that were 14 and Under are now 15 and Under.
- **Provincial Classes Added:** The following classes have been added to the Provincial Festival Syllabus:
 - Piano Duet – Grade 5 and Under
 - Piano Duet – Grade 6 and Over
- **Choral:** For most sung Choral classes at the 2024 Provincial Festival, entering choirs now have the option of coming live or submitting a video recording (classes 216 and 261 can only be entered by video recording but all other choral classes are given the option of live or video).
- **Choral Speech:** All Choral Speech at the 2024 Provincial Festival will be submitted by VIDEO Recording.
- **Guitar:** All Local Festivals may now send two (2) entries to the Provincial Festival in all Guitar classes.

British Columbia Hosting the 2024 Canada West Performing Arts Festival

In partnership with the provincial performing arts festival associations of Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan, the third annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival (CWPAF) will be held in Victoria, BC on July 25-27, 2024.

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 Choral.

To learn more about the CWPAF, please visit www.canadawestfestival.ca or contact AMFA's Provincial Administrator, Wendy Durieux (info@albertamusicfestival.org). If you would like to volunteer or sponsor a scholarship at the CWPAF, please contact AMFA's Past President, RJ Chambers (RJ@albertamusicfestival.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RJ Chambers', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

RJ Chambers
Past President, Alberta Music Festival Association

RULES GOVERNING LOCAL FESTIVALS

General

1. 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 73).
2. A Local Festival may establish additional classes and/or rules (as published in the Local Addendum for such festival) that apply only to that festival. Please check your Local Addendum (if any) for changes or modifications to classes, rules, or regulations.
3. Certain Local Addendum classes may be used to satisfy eligibility for the Provincial Festival provided such class have been approved in advance by the Provincial Administrator of AMFA (this to be done by the Local Festival).
4. The festival movement is generally for acoustic performances (no electronic amplification), unless indicated in the score (i.e. singing with a recording of whale song, electric string quartet, etc.). Other exceptions may include Contemporary Vocal classes or certain Family and Community classes. It shall be the responsibility of the competitor to supply all required amplification equipment not provided by the Local Festival (please confirm with the Local Festival on what, if any, amplification equipment shall be provided).
5. Local Festival/s reserve the right to refuse any entry.

Local Festival Management

6. 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.
7. A protest may only be considered if it is made in accordance with the regulations established by the Local Festival.
8. Each Local Festival reserves the right to add classes or delete classes upon request.
9. 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 competitor (the one that was named instead of the adjudicator recommended competitor) shall be disqualified and a \$500 fine will be levied upon the offending Local Festival, per offense.

10. 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 festival committee representative). Such contact may result in the competitor's disqualification.
11. The Local Festival may use the following grading system or any other grading system of their choosing.

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

Competitors

12. The age of a competitor is established as of December 31 preceding the Local Festival.
13. The Festival movement is intended for "amateurs." Please refer to the *Glossary of Terms* (found on page 73) for a definition.
14. 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.
15. A member of a Duet or larger ensemble may enter more than once in a class provided that they perform a different part, play a different instrument, or is the conductor.
16. A solo competitor taking private music lessons may not enter School classes.
17. Local Festivals may set their own residency requirements for competitors performing in the Local Festival or for those receiving scholarships or provincial recommendations. 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.

18. Solo competitors entering Piano Plan I (by age) may not also enter Plan II (by Grade/Level). As well, solo competitors entering Piano Plan II (by Grade/Level) may not also enter Plan I (by age). **Exception:** Piano Plan I Duet class. Please read the Piano Duet class descriptions (page 41) for specific entry information.
19. Competitors in Piano Plan II 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 Plan I at the Local Festival and continue on to the Provincial Festival. Piano Concertos are also not allowed at the CWPAF.

Selections and Performance

Note: Some repertoire may contain themes/language intended for a mature audience.

20. A **Selection** is a stand-alone piece of music. For a full definition, please refer to the *Glossary of Terms* (found on page 73). Studies/Vocalises from RCM or CC may be placed in an era class appropriate to the date of composition.
21. 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 must be submitted with the entry. Competitors may contact either CC or RCM and ask for a specific piece to be classified.
22. A solo or group competitor may not perform the same **selection** in the same 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 it is augmented by additional movements in the future year.

23. A solo or group competitor may only perform a specific **selection** once using the same instrument in a single festival year.
24. In classes with “own choice” selections, the total performance must not exceed 20 minutes unless otherwise stated. **Exception:** *Complete Concerto* or *Complete Sonata* Classes.
25. Accompaniments must be played as written. **Exception:** *Contemporary Vocal*, *Musical Theatre*, and all other *Pop/Folk* classes (in any discipline).
26. For all solo classes, any acoustic instrumental accompaniment (single instrument) may be used. Electronic accompaniment is allowed in Contemporary Vocal but must be provided by the competitor (some Local Festivals may provide certain electronic options at their discretion).
27. Each Local Festival reserves the right to disqualify a competitor who is not ready to perform when called.
28. Each Local Festival sets its own regulations regarding memorization.
29. No person – on or off stage – may augment or coach a performance.
30. 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*.
31. A competitor’s performance may be recorded by their parent/guardian but recordings of any and all adjudications and/or another competitor’s performance/s is strongly discouraged. Please refrain from using any flash or lighted photography of any type.

Copyright

32. One (1) complete **licensed** score/edition, including solo and accompaniment music and speech materials, must be onsite in the performance space (with the exception of Music Composition). Works classified as Public Domain by the Copyright Act are acceptable as photocopies. Additionally, if the Copyright holder has provided written approval, a copy of such work may be accepted. It is the competitor’s responsibility to ensure and provide proof of their claim as to a selection’s

valid use (such as a receipt for works purchased online). The Local Festival may disqualify any entry that does not adequately prove valid use of copyrighted material.

33. Date ranges for specific periods (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, etc.) listed in the syllabus are for purposes of AMFA only. For AMFA festivals, repertoire should be entered into the appropriate class as per the date ranges as presented in the AMFA syllabus.

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

34. When a school entry contains combined grades, the grade or grade range having the largest number of students determines the class to be entered.
35. Every Community Chorus member must be an official (bona fide) member. Ten percent (10%) of the choir membership may exceed a specified age limit by no more than two years.
36. Every choir must consist of at least thirteen (13) members. Choirs with fewer members should enter ensemble classes (or should consult with the Local Festival contact person prior to entry).
37. A School Chorus, School Band or School Orchestra entry 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 ensembles that are made up from singers/players of more than one school must compete as a Community group.

SCHOOL CHORUS

**School Chorus classes are for choirs of thirteen (13) or more members. School ensembles of eight to twelve (8-12) members must enter the School Vocal Ensemble class.*

**When a School Choral competitor contains a grade range that falls into two classes, the class entered is based on the grade of the majority number of students.*

**A School Chorus with members from more than one school may compete as a single choir if members have not been selected on the basis of performing ability. Otherwise, a combined choir (that has been auditioned) must compete as a Community Chorus.*

**Brief Solo Passages are allowed only in one of the selections from a single School Chorus and must not exceed 10% of the length of the selection. There is to be no movement around the stage but gestures and simple in-place movements may be used.*

SCHOOL CHORUS – SAMPLER

Classical (serious), not pop. In addition to standard classical repertoire, works by Jay Althouse, Greg Gilpin, Mary Lynn Lightfoot, Sally Albrecht, etc. are acceptable.

- Movie, TV, Musical Theatre, and Pop (including country and gospel) music are **NOT** allowed.

TWO selections, own choice

25103	KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 3
25106	GRADES 4-6
25108	JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
25112	SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHORUS – OWN CHOICE

Classical (serious), not pop. In addition to standard classical repertoire, works by Jay Althouse, Greg Gilpin, Mary Lynn Lightfoot, Sally Albrecht, etc. are acceptable.

- Movie, TV, Musical Theatre, and Pop (including country and gospel) music are **NOT** allowed.

ONE selection, own choice

25203	KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 3
25206	GRADES 4-6
25208	JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
25212	SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHORUS – CANADIAN COMPOSERS

Classical (serious), not pop.

ONE selection, own choice

25303	KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 3
25306	GRADES 4-6
25308	JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
25312	SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHORUS – MEDIEVAL / RENAISSANCE /

BAROQUE

For AMFA purposes, music composed circa 1750 and prior. Includes composers such as Dufay, Palestrina, Byrd, J.S. Bach, Handel, Pachelbel, Purcell, Vivaldi, and their contemporaries.

- Includes chant, madrigal, motet, or other forms.

ONE selection, own choice

25406	GRADES 4-6
25408	JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
25412	SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHORUS – CLASSICAL / ROMANTIC PERIOD

For AMFA purposes, music composed circa 1750-1900. Includes composers such as C.P.E. Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Berlioz, Brahms, Schumann, Schubert, Verdi, and their contemporaries.

ONE selection, own choice

25606	GRADES 4-6
25608	JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
25612	SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHORUS – MODERN COMPOSERS

For AMFA purposes, music composed circa 1900 to present. Includes composers such as Britten, Durufle, Elgar, Howells, Vaughan Williams, and their contemporaries as well as newer compositions. In addition to standard classical repertoire, serious works by Jay Althouse, Greg Gilpin, Mary Lynn Lightfoot, Sally Albrecht, etc. are acceptable.

ONE selection, own choice

25803	KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 3
25806	GRADES 4-6
25808	JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
25812	SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHORUS – FOLK SONG

- **Includes:**

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

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

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

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.

ONE selection, own choice

25903	KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 3
25906	GRADES 4-6
25908	JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
25912	SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHORUS – CONCERT

Classical (serious), not pop. In addition to standard classical repertoire, serious works by Jay Althouse, Greg Gilpin, Mary Lynn Lightfoot, Sally Albrecht, etc. are acceptable.

- Movie, TV, Musical Theatre, and Pop (including country and gospel) music are **NOT** allowed.
- Any accompaniment may be used.

TWO or **THREE** selections, own choice, from **ONE** of the following styles: Medieval/Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or Contemporary/Modern (Folk included).

26003	KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 3
26006	GRADES 4-6
26008	JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
26012	SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHORUS – RECITAL

Classical (serious), not pop. In addition to standard classical repertoire, serious works by Jay Althouse, Greg Gilpin, Mary Lynn Lightfoot, Sally Albrecht, etc. are acceptable.

- Movie, TV, Musical Theatre, and Pop (including country and gospel) music are **NOT** allowed.
- Only **ONE** Folk, Traditional Air, Sea Shanty, or Spiritual may be sung.
- Any accompaniment may be used.

THREE selections, own choice, from any **THREE** of the following styles: Medieval/Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or Contemporary/Modern (Folk included).

26103	KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 3
26106	GRADES 4-6
26108	JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
26112	SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL VOCAL ENSEMBLE

- Eight to twelve voices.
- May be conducted.
- May be accompanied.
- Any voice combination.

TWO contrasting selections, own choice

26208	JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
26212	SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHORAL JAZZ GROUP

**NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PROVINCIAL MUSIC FESTIVAL
RECOMMENDATION**

TWO selections, own choice

26300 SCHOOL CHORAL JAZZ GROUP

SCHOOL CHORUS – MOVIE/TV/POP

**NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PROVINCIAL MUSIC FESTIVAL
RECOMMENDATION**

- Includes Movie, TV, Musical Theatre, Country/Western, and Gospel Music.
- Partner Songs are acceptable (two different songs that have a similar harmonic structure and length, so they may be sung together – commonly referred to as a “mashup”).
- NO movement or costumes are allowed.

ONE selection, own choice

26503 KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 3
26506 GRADES 4-6
26508 JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
26512 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

****For more school group classes, please refer to “School Band, Orchestra, and Other Group Classes” section of the syllabus.***

****For other choral classes, please refer to Community Chorus section of the syllabus.***