



# **2024**

# **Syllabus**

[www.albertamusicfestival.org](http://www.albertamusicfestival.org)



RJ Chambers, Past President  
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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](http://www.canadawestfestival.ca) or contact AMFA's Provincial Administrator, Wendy Durieux ([info@albertamusicfestival.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# STRING AND KEYBOARD SONATA

*\*A String Sonata is a composition written with the intention of both piano and string instrument serving as equal partners in performance. Only the string player will be adjudicated.*

*\*Provincial Eligibility Note: String sonatas in the below classes may go to Provincials non-memorized provided they are entered into Provincial Class 320 only. Any String sonata performed in the regular Strings classes at provincials (any string class besides Provincial Class 320) must be memorized at the Provincial Festival.*

*\*Canada West Eligibility Note: All repertoire at Canada West must be fully memorized, including sonatas.*

## UPPER STRINGS – VIOLIN AND VIOLA (LEFT COLUMN)

### VIOLIN/VIOLA – STRING AND KEYBOARD SONATA – PARTIAL

- The string solo part **DOES NOT** need to be performed from memory.

**FIRST, LAST, or any TWO CONSECUTIVE movements, own choice**

35010	10 AND UNDER
35011	11 AND UNDER
35013	13 AND UNDER
35015	15 AND UNDER
35017	17 AND UNDER
35018	18 AND OVER

### VIOLIN/VIOLA – STRING AND KEYBOARD SONATA – COMPLETE

- The string solo part **DOES NOT** need to be performed from memory.
- **MAY BE CATEGORIZED** based on age and/or level in the case of multiple entries.

**ONE** complete sonata (all movements), own choice

35105	COMPLETE SONATA
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## LOWER STRINGS – CELLO AND BASS (RIGHT COLUMN)

### CELLO/BASS – STRING AND KEYBOARD SONATA – PARTIAL

- The string solo part **DOES NOT** need to be performed from memory.

**FIRST, LAST, or any TWO CONSECUTIVE movements, own choice**

35510	10 AND UNDER
35511	11 AND UNDER
35513	13 AND UNDER
35515	15 AND UNDER
35517	17 AND UNDER
35518	18 AND OVER

### CELLO/BASS – STRING AND KEYBOARD SONATA – COMPLETE

- The string solo part **DOES NOT** need to be performed from memory.
- **MAY BE CATEGORIZED** based on age and/or level in the case of multiple entries.

**ONE** complete sonata (all movements), own choice

35605	COMPLETE SONATA
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