



OFFICIAL SYLLABUS

**2026 Provincial Music Festival
5-6 June, 2026**

**Live Festival - Acadia University, Wolfville
Host, Recorded Stream - FMFNS**

Provincial Music Festival Registration deadline: 16 May, 2026

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IMPORTANT

Local and provincial festival administrators should advise teachers and students to check the local, provincial, and national syllabi carefully when choosing music for festival entries. Administrators should also ensure their adjudicators are aware of class requirements when recommending students to the next level of competition.

WHAT'S NEW IN 2026

- A. **Intermediate Voice** - new maximum performance time is 15 minutes. Minimum requirement remains the same: Two (2) recommended selections by the Local Festival adjudicator OR participation in a Provincial/National Class. One additional piece may be added.
- B. **Solo disciplines - length of student program (Intermediate and Senior/Advanced) - new wording:** Additional works may be added to your program within the time allotted. This wording replaces the following: "It is expected that additional selections will be added to your program. Competitors are expected to use the performance time allotted to them to maximum advantage." See also Rule E below;
- C. **Musical Theatre** - Competitors may use props and simple costumes as part of their performance. It is recommended that costume changes be minimal (change of hat, adding a scarf/cape, etc.). All time taken for these changes is included in the total performance time. **Leaving the stage for costume changes is NOT permitted.**
- D. **Canadian and Indigenous composers** - Lists of works by Canadian and Indigenous composers can be found here: <https://fcmf.org/repertoire-resources/>
- E. **Optional Local Festival Solo Repertoire Selection Model - Intermediate and Senior/Advanced (for Local Festivals without designated Provincial/National solo discipline classes)** - Instead of approving only two selections, local solo adjudicators may approve all eligible repertoire they have heard and consider suitable for Provincials. Competitors may then choose their two Provincial program pieces from this approved repertoire and may include additional approved pieces from this list, provided they are within the time limit. Local Festivals may continue to use their existing solo repertoire selection process if preferred. For additional movements of a multi-movement work in Senior/Advanced classes, please see Classes 100-700 in the syllabus;
- F. **Class standings, Provincial Music Festival** - All solo Provincial Intermediate and Senior/Advanced disciplines will include 1st, 2nd, 3rd place standings, at the discretion of the adjudicator. Cash Prizes will be awarded to first-place winners.
- G. **Recommendations to the National Music Festival - Intermediate and Senior/Advanced** - First- and second-place solo Provincial Intermediate and Senior/Advanced students may be recommended to the National Music Festival at the adjudicator's discretion, provided their performances attain a satisfactory standard. An adjudicator may award first- and second-place without recommending the performer(s) for National competition. Alternates may be recommended at the discretion of the adjudicator should a satisfactory standard be obtained.

What's New in 2026 continued on page 2

- H. **Time limits** - If a performance reaches the maximum allotted time, the performance will be stopped at that point. The adjudicator will assess the performance based solely on the portion that has been heard. **Reaching or exceeding the time limit will NOT result in disqualification.**
- I. **Expectations** - Behave appropriately and respectfully during performances or adjudication workshops. Alcoholic beverages, **cannabis, and other controlled or illegal substances** are not allowed on the Festival site. Any infringement of this rule will lead to disqualification.
- J. **Memorization** - memorization of pieces is required in all levels of competition in all classes except Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Chamber Ensembles, and **String sonatas.**

Note: Rules I. and J. include minor wording updates for clarity and currency and are subject to ratification by the Board at the next regular meeting.

PROVINCIAL MUSIC FESTIVAL - SUMMARY OF LEVELS

| Provincial Music Festival | Senior/Advanced | Intermediate | Junior (goes directly to NMF in Non-Competitive Education Stream*) | Recorded Stream | Composition Stream |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Level of Repertoire | Advanced | Intermediate - comparable to conservatory grades 8-10 | Junior - comparable to conservatory grades 4-7 | As outlined in class descriptions by discipline | Advanced, Intermediate, and Junior |
| Age of Competitors | 30 years and under | As outlined in class descriptions by discipline | As outlined in class descriptions by discipline | As outlined in class descriptions by discipline | As outlined in class descriptions by discipline |
| Model | Live | Live | Virtual | Virtual | Live |
| Entry Fee | \$150 | \$100 | \$125* | Refer to specific discipline chart | Refer to specific discipline chart |
| Entry and Submission Deadline | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 | 30 June, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 |
| Adjudication | Written comments and workshop | Written comments and workshop | Written comments and workshop | Written comments and Chamber Ensemble workshop | Written comments and workshop |
| Awards | TBA | TBA | Certificate with seal indicating standard | TBA | TBA |

* The Junior Non-Competitive Education Stream does not take place at the Provincial Music Festival. These competitors only compete at the National Music Festival; thus the fees are set by the National Festival.

CLASS 100 – VOCAL SOLO

Voice type must be stated on the entry form.

Participants are expected to perform a well-rounded recital program with **the number of selections for their level as indicated in the chart below** reflecting a variety of styles and periods.

- All selections* recommended from the Local Festival **must** be performed;
- **NEW 2026:** Additional works may be added to your program within the time allotted. *For Senior/Advanced solo students, this requirement does not apply to additional movements of a multi-movement work. Senior/Advanced students may include additional movements in their Provincial program that were not heard by the Local Festival adjudicator, provided the total performance time remains within the maximum time allotted.*
- The inclusion of compositions by Canadian and Indigenous composers is encouraged;
- Memorization is required.

| Class | #101 Senior/ Advanced | #102 Intermediate | #103 Junior (Non-Competitive Education Stream) |
|--|--|--|--|
| Age | 30 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under | 14 years of age and under |
| Repertoire Level | Advanced concert level | Intermediate concert level | Junior concert level |
| Performance Time [First note or word to last note or word, including breaks] | 30 minutes maximum | 15 minutes maximum | 15 minutes maximum |
| Entry Fee | \$150 | \$100 | \$125 |
| Registration Deadline | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 | 30 June, 2026 |
| Submission Deadline (NCES) | NA | NA | 30 June, 2026 |
| Repertoire Required at Local Festival | At least two advanced selections*, or participation in a Provincial/National Class | At least two intermediate selections*, or participation in a Provincial/National Class | At least two junior selections*, or participation in a Provincial/National Class |

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| <p>Repertoire Required at Provincial Festival</p> | <p>Minimum requirement: two advanced selections*, as recommended by the Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/ National Class. Additional selections may be added. Senior/Advanced students may include additional movements in their Provincial program that were not heard by the Local Festival adjudicator, provided the total performance time remains within the maximum time allotted</p> | <p>Minimum requirement: two intermediate selections*, as recommended by the Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/ National Class. One additional piece may be added. Maximum performance time is 15 minutes.</p> | <p>Two junior selections* recommended directly from the Local Festival to the National Festival.</p> |
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**A selection is defined as “a single movement composition, or one or more movements of a multi-movement composition”. A group of songs by the same composer or from an existing song cycle by a composer is acceptable as a multi-movement work.*

CLASS 200 – PIANO SOLO

Participants are expected to perform a well-rounded recital program with **the number of selections for their level as indicated in the chart below** reflecting a variety of styles and periods.

- All selections* recommended from the Local Festival **must** be performed;
- **NEW 2026:** Additional works may be added to your program within the time allotted. *For Senior/Advanced solo students, this requirement does not apply to additional movements of a multi-movement work. Senior/Advanced students may include additional movements in their Provincial program that were not heard by the Local Festival adjudicator, provided the total performance time remains within the maximum time allotted;*
- The inclusion of compositions by Canadian and Indigenous composers is encouraged;
- Memorization is required.

| Class | #201 Senior/Advanced | #202 Intermediate | #203 Junior (Non-Competitive Education Stream) |
|--|---|---|--|
| Age | 30 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under |
| Repertoire Level | Advanced concert | Intermediate concert level comparable to RCM/CC levels 8-10 *Vincent D'Indy Grades 6-8 | Junior concert level comparable to RCM/CC levels 4-7 **Vincent D'Indy Grades 2-5 |
| Performance Time [First note or word to last note or word, including breaks] | 40 minutes maximum | 20 minutes maximum | 15 minutes maximum |
| Additional Repertoire Information | Competitors may add additional movements of their multi-movement works, and/or additional selections within the maximum time. | Competitors may add additional movements of their multi-movement works, and/or additional selections within the maximum time. | Two contrasting selections* A *multi-movement work is permitted but not required. |
| Entry Fee | \$150 | \$100 | \$125 |
| Registration Deadline | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 | 30 June, 2026 |
| Submission Deadline (NCES) | NA | NA | 30 June, 2026 |
| Repertoire Required at Local Festival | At least two advanced selections*, or participation in a Provincial/National Class | At least two intermediate selections*, or participation in a Provincial/National Class | At least two junior selections*, or participation in a Provincial/National Class |

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| Repertoire Required at Provincial Festival | <p>Minimum requirement: two advanced selections*, as recommended by Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/National Class.</p> <p>Additional selections may be added. Senior/Advanced students may include additional movements in their Provincial program that were not heard by the Local Festival adjudicator, provided the total performance time remains within the maximum time allotted</p> | <p>Minimum requirement: two advanced selections*, as recommended by Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/National Class.</p> <p>Additional selections may be added.</p> | <p>Two junior selections* recommended directly from the Local Festival to the National Festival.</p> |
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* *A selection is defined as “a single movement composition, or one or more movements of a multi-movement composition.” In addition to Sonatas, Concertos, Suites, etc., a group of pieces by the same composer or from an existing Collection by a composer is acceptable as a multi-movement work.*

* ***Vincent D’Indy is a French Conservatory offering classical repertoire over 10 grade levels. RCM and CCC offer basically the same repertoire over 12 levels [Introductory, 1-10, and and Diploma], thus the inherent difference in gradings.*

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CLASS 300 – STRING SOLO

Guitar performers must enter Class 400.

Instrument must be stated on entry form.

Participants are expected to perform a well-rounded recital program with **the number of selections for their level as indicated in the chart below** reflecting a variety of styles and periods.

- All selections* recommended from the Local Festival **must** be performed;
- **NEW 2026:** Additional works may be added to your program within the time allotted. *For Senior/Advanced solo students, this requirement does not apply to additional movements of a multi-movement work. Senior/Advanced students may include additional movements in their Provincial program that were not heard by the Local Festival adjudicator, provided the total performance time remains within the maximum time allotted;*
- The inclusion of compositions by Canadian and Indigenous composers is encouraged;
- Memorization is required except for Sonata selections.

| Class | #201 Senior/Advanced | #202 Intermediate | #203 Junior (Non-Competitive Education Stream) |
|--|---|---|--|
| Age | 30 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under |
| Repertoire Level | Advanced concert | RCM/CC levels 8-10 *Vincent D'Indy Grades 6-8 (violin); Grades 4-6 (cello) | Junior concert level comparable to RCM/CC levels 4-7 **Vincent D'Indy Grades 2-5 |
| Performance Time [First note or word to last note or word, including breaks] | 40 minutes maximum | 20 minutes maximum | 15 minutes maximum |
| Additional Repertoire Information | Competitors may add additional movements of their multi-movement works, and/or additional selections within the maximum time. | Competitors may add additional movements of their multi-movement works, and/or additional selections within the maximum time. | Two contrasting selections* A *multi-movement work is permitted but not required. |
| Entry Fee | \$150 | \$100 | \$125 |
| Registration Deadline | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 | 30 June, 2026 |
| Submission Deadline (NCES) | NA | NA | 30 June, 2026 |
| Repertoire Required at Local Festival | At least two advanced selections* , or participation in a Provincial/National Class | At least two intermediate selections* , or participation in a Provincial/National Class | At least two junior selections* , or participation in a Provincial/National Class |

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| <p>Repertoire Required at Provincial Festival</p> | <p>Minimum requirement: two advanced selections*, as recommended by the Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/National Class. Additional selections may be added. Senior/Advanced students may include additional movements in their Provincial program that were not heard by the Local Festival adjudicator, provided the total performance time remains within the maximum time allotted.</p> | <p>Minimum requirement: two advanced selections*, as recommended by the Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/National Class. Additional selections may be added.</p> | <p>Two junior selections* recommended directly from the Local Festival to the National Festival.</p> |
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** A selection is defined as “a single movement composition or one or more movements of a multi-movement composition.” In addition to Sonatas, Concertos, Suites, etc., a group of pieces by the same composer or from an existing Collection by a composer is acceptable as a multi-movement work.*

*** Vincent D’Indy is a French Conservatory offering the classical repertoire over 10 grade levels. RCM and CC offer basically the same repertoire over 12 levels [Introductory, 1-10, and Diploma], thus the inherent difference in gradings.*

CLASS 400 – CLASSICAL GUITAR SOLO

Participants are expected to perform a well-rounded recital program with **the number of selections for their level as indicated in the chart below** reflecting a variety of styles and periods.

- All selections* recommended from the Local Festival **must** be performed;
- Piano accompaniment is permitted where the score requires;
- **NEW 2026:** Additional works may be added to your program within the time allotted. *For Senior/Advanced solo students, this requirement does not apply to additional movements of a multi-movement work. Senior/Advanced students may include additional movements in their Provincial program that were not heard by the Local Festival adjudicator, provided the total performance time remains within the maximum time allotted;*
- The inclusion of compositions by Canadian and Indigenous composers is encouraged;
- Memorization is required.

* A selection is defined as “a single movement composition or one or more movements of a multi -movement composition.” In addition to Sonatas, Concertos, Suites, etc., a group of pieces by the same composer or from an existing Collection by a composer is acceptable as a multi-movement work.

| Class | #401 Senior/Advanced | #402 Intermediate | #403 Junior (Non-Competitive Education Stream) |
|--|---|---|---|
| Age | 30 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under |
| Repertoire Level | Advanced concert | Intermediate concert level comparable to RCM/CC levels 8-10 | Junior concert level comparable to RCM/CC levels 4-7 |
| Performance Time [First note or word to last note or word, including breaks] | 40 minutes maximum | 20 minutes maximum | 15 minutes maximum |
| Additional Repertoire Information | Competitors may add additional movements of their multi-movement works, and/or additional selections within the maximum time. | Competitors may add additional movements of their multi-movement works, and/or additional selections within the maximum time. | Two contrasting selections* A *multi-movement work is permitted but not required. |
| Entry Fee | \$150 | \$100 | \$125 |
| Registration Deadline | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 | 30 June, 2026 |
| Submission Deadline (NCES) | NA | NA | 30 June, 2026 |
| Repertoire Required at Local Festival | At least two advanced selections* , or participation in a Provincial/National Class | At least two intermediate selections* , or participation in a Provincial/National Class | At least two junior selections* , or participation in a Provincial/ National Class |

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| <p>Repertoire Required at Provincial Festival</p> | <p>Minimum requirement: two advanced selections*, as recommended by Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/National Class. Additional selections may be added. Senior/Advanced students may include additional movements in their Provincial program that were not heard by the Local Festival adjudicator, provided the total performance time remains within the maximum time allotted.</p> | <p>Minimum requirement: two advanced selections*, as recommended by Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/National Class. Additional selections may be added.</p> | <p>Two junior selections* recommended directly from the Local Festival to the National Festival.</p> |
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CLASS 500 – WOODWIND SOLO

The instrument must be stated on the entry form.

Participants are expected to perform a well-rounded recital program with **the number of selections for their level as indicated in the chart below** reflecting a variety of styles and periods.

- All selections* recommended from the Local Festival **must** be performed;
- **NEW 2026:** Additional works may be added to your program within the time allotted. *For Senior/Advanced solo students, this requirement does not apply to additional movements of a multi-movement work. Senior/Advanced students may include additional movements in their Provincial program that were not heard by the Local Festival adjudicator, provided the total performance time remains within the maximum time allotted;*
- The inclusion of compositions by Canadian and Indigenous composers is encouraged;
- Memorization is encouraged but not required.

*A selection is defined as “a single movement composition or one or more movements of a multi -movement composition.” In addition to Sonatas, Concertos, Suites, etc., a group of pieces by the same composer or from an existing Collection by a composer is acceptable as a multi-movement work.

| Class | #501 Senior/Advanced | #502 Intermediate | #503 Junior (Non-Competitive Education Stream) |
|--|---|---|--|
| Age | 30 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under |
| Repertoire Level | Advanced concert | Intermediate concert level comparable to RCM/CC levels 8-10 | Junior concert level comparable to RCM/CC levels 4-7 |
| Performance Time [First note or word to last note or word, including breaks] | 40 minutes maximum | 20 minutes maximum | 15 minutes maximum |
| Additional Repertoire Information | Competitors may add additional movements of their multi-movement works, and/or additional selections within the maximum time. | Competitors may add additional movements of their multi-movement works, and/or additional selections within the maximum time. | Two contrasting selections* A *multi-movement work is permitted but not required. |
| Entry Fee | \$150 | \$100 | \$125 |
| Registration Deadline | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 | 30 June, 2026 |
| Submission Deadline (NCES) | NA | NA | 30 June, 2026 |
| Repertoire Required at Local Festival | At least two advanced selections*, or participation in a Provincial/National Class | At least two intermediate selections*, or participation in a Provincial/National Class | At least two junior selections*, or participation in a Provincial/National Class |

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| <p>Repertoire Required at Provincial Festival</p> | <p>Minimum requirement: two advanced selections*, as recommended by Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/National Class. Additional selections may be added. Senior/Advanced students may include additional movements in their Provincial program that were not heard by the Local Festival adjudicator, provided the total performance time remains within the maximum time allotted.</p> | <p>Minimum requirement: two advanced selections*, as recommended by Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/National Class. Additional selections may be added.</p> | <p>Two junior selections* recommended directly from the Local Festival to the National Festival.</p> |
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CLASS 600 – BRASS SOLO

The instrument must be stated on the entry form.

Participants are expected to perform a well-rounded recital program with **the number of selections for their level as indicated in the chart below** reflecting a variety of styles and periods.

- All selections* recommended from the Local Festival **must** be performed;
- **NEW 2026:** Additional works may be added to your program within the time allotted. *For Senior/Advanced solo students, this requirement does not apply to additional movements of a multi-movement work. Senior/Advanced students may include additional movements in their Provincial program that were not heard by the Local Festival adjudicator, provided the total performance time remains within the maximum time allotted;*
- The inclusion of compositions by Canadian and Indigenous composers is encouraged;
- Memorization is encouraged but not required.

** A selection is defined as “a single movement composition or one or more movements of a multi -movement composition.” In addition to Sonatas, Concertos, Suites, etc., a group of pieces by the same composer or from an existing Collection by a composer is acceptable as multi-movement work.*

| Class | #601 Senior/Advanced | #602 Intermediate | #603 Junior (Non-Competitive Education Stream) |
|---|---|---|--|
| Age | 30 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under |
| Repertoire Level | Advanced concert | Intermediate concert level comparable to RCM/CC levels 8-10 | Junior concert level comparable to RCM/CC levels 4-7 |
| Performance Time [First note or word to last note or word, including breaks] | 30 minutes maximum | 20 minutes maximum | 15 minutes maximum |
| Additional Repertoire Information | Competitors may add additional movements of their multi-movement works, and/or additional selections within the maximum time. | Competitors may add additional movements of their multi-movement works, and/or additional selections within the maximum time. | Two contrasting selections* A *multi-movement work is permitted but not required. |
| Entry Fee | \$150 | \$100 | \$125 |
| Registration Deadline | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 | 30 June, 2026 |
| Submission Deadline (NCES) | NA | NA | 30 June, 2026 |
| Repertoire Required at Local Festival | At least two advanced selections* , or participation in a Provincial/National Class | At least two intermediate selections* , or participation in a Provincial/National Class | At least two junior selections* , or participation in a Provincial/National Class |

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| <p>Repertoire Required at Provincial Festival</p> | <p>Minimum requirement: two advanced selections*, as recommended by Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/National Class.</p> <p>Additional selections may be added.</p> <p>Senior/Advanced students may include additional movements in their Provincial program that were not heard by the Local Festival adjudicator, provided the total performance time remains within the maximum time allotted.</p> | <p>Minimum requirement: two advanced selections*, as recommended by Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/National Class.</p> <p>Additional selections may be added.</p> | <p>Two junior selections* recommended directly from the Local Festival to the National Festival.</p> |
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CLASS 800 – MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO

Voice type must be stated on the entry form.

Participants are expected to perform a well-rounded recital program with **the number of selections for their level as indicated in the chart below reflecting a variety of styles and periods:**

- Accompaniment shall be restricted to the piano;
- The piano must be respected as an instrument and may not be used as a prop and/or table;
- Competitors may place one hand on the piano. Similarly, the pianist is an accompanist and not a stage character;
- Performance time is first note or word to last note or word, including breaks;
- Memorization is required;
- **NEW 2026:** Competitors may use props and simple costumes as part of their performance. It is recommended that costume changes be minimal (change of hat, adding a scarf/cape, etc.). All time taken for these changes is included in the total performance time. **Leaving the stage for costume changes is NOT permitted.**

Scores

- All selections are to be sung from a published score, in any published key of a staged musical;
- The original copy can be the Broadway score, from an Anthology, or purchased online [proof of purchase must be provided];
- The score submitted must match the version/revision being performed. The year of the revision is to be indicated on the entry form.

Repertoire

- All selections* recommended from the Local Festival **must** be performed;
- Selections must be sung from a published score, in any published key of a **staged musical**;
- Selections NOT permitted at any level include:
 - Selections from cabaret/revues (eg. “Taylor, the Latte Boy”, “Alto’s Lament”, “The Girl in 14G”, “Darryl is a Boy”, etc.);
 - Selections from Operetta (eg. Gilbert & Sullivan, Hebert, Romberg, Johann Strauss, Lehar, Offenbach, etc.);
 - Selections that are primarily patter (eg. “Over the Moon” from Rent, “Rock Island” from the Music Man, “My Shot” from Hamilton).
- A variety of vocal techniques appropriate for musical theatre may be utilized;
- All selections should be age appropriate;
- Thought must be given to the Festival’s focus on youth, venues and donors when selecting the pieces to be performed. It is expected that selections will not include profanity, vulgar or offensive language. If the original piece contains such, the performer must alter the lyrics, identifying the change in the score;
- Spoken passages are allowed only if published in the script/score provided;
- The inclusion of compositions by Canadian and Indigenous composers is encouraged;
- Memorization is encouraged.

Definitions

- Musical - a group of pieces connected by a storyline and characters;
- Staged musical - written with the intent to be performed on stage, with a set, costumes, etc.;
- Non-staged musical - written for movies only;
- Revue - a group of pieces in musical theatre style without the connecting storyline, although there may be a common theme;
- Character piece - a piece in musical theatre style that is not part of a show and is sometimes known as a “stand-alone piece”;

- Ballad - used to describe music with a slower tempo, often of a serious or introspective nature, e.g. - “On My Own” (from Les Misérables);
- Up-tempo - used to describe music with a lively tempo, often comedy, e.g. - “One Hundred Easy Ways” (from Wonderful Town);
- Operetta - falls somewhere between an opera and a musical. Like a musical, it most often contains spoken dialogue as well as song; tends to be shorter and less complex than traditional operas.

Costumes and Props

For Junior and Intermediate competitors:

- A table, chair, and coat rack will be provided;
- Stage technicians may assist competitors with stage set-up and takedown;
- Costumes and inanimate props are permitted (one to three props per selection). A list of props must be submitted on the competitor's provincial entry form.

For Senior/Advanced competitors:

- Competitors may perform in costume and use costume enhancements [e.g. hat, scarf, jacket, shawl] and one hand prop per selection;
- Competitors may leave the stage briefly for a drink of water or to facilitate an entrance but must not leave the stage for complete costume changes.

For all competitors:

- Limited movement is permitted. For reasons of safety and logistics, full stage choreography will not be possible;
- Breaks between selections, for costume changes and set-up and takedown of props are part of the competitor's total time allotment.

| Class | #801 Senior/Advanced | #802 Intermediate | #803 Junior (Non-Competitive Education Stream) |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Age | 30 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under | 14 years of age and under |
| Repertoire Level | Advanced concert | Intermediate concert repertoire | Junior concert level |
| Performance Time [First note or word to last note or word, including breaks] | 30 minutes maximum | 15 minutes maximum | 15 minutes maximum |

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| Additional Repertoire Information | Spoken passages allowed only if published in script/score provided; | Spoken passages allowed only if published in script/score provided; | Spoken passages allowed only if published in script/score provided; |
| | Selections are not to include reviews, operetta/light opera (e.g. Romberg, Johann Strauss, Lehár, Offenbach); | Selections are not to include reviews, operetta/light opera (e.g. Romberg, Johann Strauss, Lehár, Offenbach); | Selections are not to include reviews, operetta/light opera (e.g. Romberg, Johann Strauss, Lehár, Offenbach); |
| | Competitors may perform in costume and use costume enhancements (e.g. hat, scarf, jacket, shawl) and one hand prop per selection; | Competitors may perform in costume and use costume enhancements (e.g. hat, scarf, jacket, shawl) and one hand prop per selection; | Competitors may perform in costume and use costume enhancements (e.g. hat, scarf, jacket, shawl) and one hand prop per selection; |
| | Competitors may leave stage briefly for a drink of water or to facilitate an entrance but must not leave stage for complete costume change. | Competitors may leave stage briefly for a drink of water or to facilitate an entrance but must not leave stage for complete costume change. | Competitors may leave stage briefly for a drink of water or to facilitate an entrance but must not leave stage for complete costume change. |
| Entry Fee | \$150 | \$100 | \$125 |
| Registration Deadline | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 | 30 June, 2026 |
| Submission Deadline (NCES) | NA | NA | 30 June, 2026 |
| Repertoire Required at Local Festival | At least two advanced selections*, or participation in a Provincial/ National Class. The recommended selections must include Ballad* and an Up-Tempo work.** | At least two intermediate selections*, or participation in a Provincial/ National Class | At least two junior selections*, or participation in a Provincial/ National Class |

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| <p>Repertoire Required at Provincial Festival</p> | <p>Three advanced selections* as recommended by Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/National Class.</p> | <p>Two intermediate selections* as recommended by Local Festival Adjudicator, OR participation in a Provincial/National Class.</p> | <p>Two junior selections* recommended directly from the Local Festival to the National Festival.</p> |
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| Choral - #9100 [9101 – 9113] | Refer pp. 21-22 |
| Chamber Ensembles - #9200 [9201 - 9203] | Refer pp. 23-24 |
| Band - #9300 [9301 - 9304] | Refer pp. 23-24 |
| Orchestra - #9400 [9401 - 9404] | Refer pp. 23-24 |

Original Composition - #9500 [9501 - 9506] Refer p. 25

Live Stream in 2026

PROCESS

The competition is conducted at three progressive levels, from Local - Provincial - National:

1. Local Festival

The maximum number of entries recommended from each Local Festival to compete at the Provincial Festival in National Music Festival classes is determined by the Provincial Association. Each Local Festival can send a maximum of TWO students per discipline to compete at the Provincial Festival.

Adjudicators at the Local Festival may choose, in each of the Choral or Ensemble categories, groups that are deemed to be of National standard. The competition is based on the performance of TWO CONTRASTING SELECTIONS, only ONE of which may include brief solo or solo ensemble passages. A signed recommendation along with recordings and a digital copy of the music scores must be submitted to the Provincial Administrator.

2. Provincial Festival

Groups submitting recordings to the Provincial level of competition must perform the same selections on which they were recommended by the adjudicator at the Local level. The Adjudicator at the Provincial level may choose, in each category submitted, **one** group that is deemed to be of a national standard.

The adjudicator for the provincial music festival is allowed to send **2 extra groups**, chosen from across the classes within each section [choral, chamber ensembles, bands, orchestras], with no more than one extra submission per class. The signed recommendation along with the recording, a digital copy of the music scores, and the entry fee as outlined above must be submitted by **June 30th**.

3. National Festival

Groups submitting recordings to the National level of competition must perform the same selections on which they were recommended by the adjudicator at the Local and Provincial/Local Stream Qualifying Round levels. Recordings are adjudicated and the participants are notified.

CHORAL CLASS REGULATIONS

These rules apply to all classes: Participation is limited to amateur Canadian choirs, performing in the appropriate class[es] at affiliated festivals.

1. A choir may enter only one choral class between #9102 and #9113 at the National level. They may enter Class #9101 [Glee/Show/Musical Group] as well;
2. **Only selections performed, adjudicated, and recommended from Local and Provincial Festivals are acceptable;**
3. The competition is based on the performance of TWO CONTRASTING SELECTIONS, only ONE of which may include brief solo or solo ensemble passages. Please note that the definition of the term 'selection' for choral classes is "one piece of music by a composer and not two or more short pieces from a collection, cycle or larger work";
4. In classes 9102-9113, the total number of bars of the solo or solo ensemble passage[s] must not exceed 10% of the total length of the selection. In class 9101 [Glee/Show/Musical Group] the total number of bars of the solo or solo ensemble passage[s] must not exceed 20% of the total length of the selection;
5. The inclusion of compositions by Canadian and Indigenous composers is encouraged;
6. These classes are open to equal and/or mixed voices;
7. Ages are determined as of December 31 preceding the festival;
8. Memorization is not required.

CHORAL RECORDING REGULATIONS

1. A link to each audio recording is required for submission of choral entries in classes 9102-9113;
2. Class 9101 [Glee choir] requires a video recording submitted by link to a YouTube channel as an 'unlisted' video;
3. Recordings must be completed with the same choir, conductor, accompanist, and accompaniment as in the **original local performance**. The recording must be one take;
4. No acoustic or electronic compensation, filtering, or other enhancement is to be used while [or post] recording.
5. Recordings and music scores should contain no reference to the name of the choir, its conductor, or the festival, from which it has been sent;
6. All copyrights regarding music must be observed;
7. Choral entries are submitted through the FMFNS website by placing links to the following files in the designated fields of the registration form along with payment of Entry Fee, on or before the entry deadline:
 - A link to the audio recordings for each selection in Google Drive
 - A clear, scanned copy of each score [including a picture of the cover, the receipt for digital purchase, or proof of Public Domain] with the first measure in each line numbered.

GLEE/SHOW/MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP

Class 9101 - ENTRY FEE \$50.00

- This class is open to school and community choirs and ensembles [a minimum of 6 singers];
- Any combination of ages and voices;
- Both selections must contain staging and/or choreography;
- Time Limit: 20 minutes;
- Video with Audio.

SCHOOL CHOIRS

- A minimum of 8 singers;
- The members of a school choir must all be from the same school;
- Only one folk song is permitted;
- Audio recording only.

Class 9102 – Grade 12 & Under - ENTRY FEE \$50.00

- At least one selection sung in three or more parts

Class 9103 – Grade 9 & Under - ENTRY FEE \$50.00

- At least one selection sung in two or more parts

Class 9104 – Grade 6 & Under - ENTRY FEE \$50.00

- One selection sung in two parts is strongly encouraged

COMMUNITY CHOIRS

- A minimum of 8 singers is required;
- Only one folk song is permitted;
- Audio recording only.

Class 9110 – 19 & Over - ENTRY FEE \$100.00

- The majority of members must be 19 years of age and over;
- At least one selection sung in three or more parts.

Class 9111 – 19 & Under - ENTRY FEE \$100.00

- No more than 5% of the members may exceed the age limit by more than one year;
- At least one selection sung in three or more parts.

Class 9112 – 16 & Under - ENTRY FEE \$100.00

- No more than 5% of the members may exceed the age limit by more than one year;
- At least one selection sung in three or more parts.

Class 9113 – 12 & Under - ENTRY FEE \$100.00

- No more than 5% of the members may exceed the age limit by more than one year;
- At least one selection sung in two or more parts.

RECORDED INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE CLASSES 9200 - 9500

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE CLASS REGULATIONS

These rules apply to all classes:

1. Participation is limited to amateur Canadian groups, performing in the appropriate class[es] at affiliated festivals;
2. Groups may enter only one ensemble class at the National level;
3. Only selections performed, adjudicated, and recommended from Local festivals are acceptable;
4. Please note that the definition of the term 'selection' for large ensemble classes is "a single movement composition OR one or more movements of a multi-movement composition". A group of pieces by the same composer or from an existing collection by a composer is acceptable as a multi-movement work;
5. The competition is based on the performance of TWO CONTRASTING SELECTIONS, only ONE of which may include brief solo or solo ensemble passages. Multi-movements of one piece will be counted as one selection;
6. The total number of bars of the solo or solo ensemble passage[s] must not exceed 10% of the total length of the selection;
7. The inclusion of compositions by Canadian and Indigenous composers is encouraged;
8. Memorization is not required.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE RECORDING REGULATIONS

1. A link to each audio recording is required for the submission of large ensemble entries;
2. Recordings must be completed with the same group and conductor as in the **original local performance**. The recording must be done in one take;
3. No acoustic or electronic compensation, filtering, or other enhancement is to be used while [or post] recording.
4. Recordings and music scores for large ensembles should contain no reference to the name of the group, its conductor, or the festival from which it has been sent;
5. All copyrights regarding music must be observed;
6. Recorded Instrumental Ensemble entries are submitted through the FMFNS website by placing links to the following files in the designated fields of the registration form along with payment of the applicable Entry Fee, on or before the entry deadline:
 - The recording for each selection;
 - A link to the audio recording for each selection in Google Drive;
 - A clear, scanned copy of each score [including a picture of the cover, the receipt for digital purchase, or proof of Public Domain] with the first measure in each line numbered.

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES 9200

- Three to a maximum of nine performers, each having their own part; no conductor is permitted.
- When piano is included, the piano part must be original and not an orchestral reduction. Instrumentation and amplification may be used only as indicated in the original score;
- The use of a keyboard to simulate period keyboard instruments, such as a harpsichord, is permitted in Junior and Intermediate Chamber Ensemble classes;
- The acquiring, delivery and set-up and removal of the keyboard is the responsibility of the participant, teacher and/or family;
- Competitors may compete in more than one chamber ensemble provided that at least 50% of the members of the ensemble are different or are playing different instruments;

- Contestants are requested to state their voice category or instrument;
- Selections* recommended from the Local Festival must be performed
- Performance time is first note or word to last note or word, including breaks;
- Memorization is not required.

Class 9201 – Advanced

- 30 years of age and under
- Advanced concert repertoire
- Maximum performance time: 30 minutes

Class 9202 – Intermediate

- 18 years of age and under
- Intermediate concert repertoire
- Maximum performance time: 20 minutes

Class 9203 – Junior

- 18 years of age and under
- Junior concert repertoire
- Maximum performance time: 15 minutes

BAND 9300

- The members of a school group must all be from the same school, up to and including Grade 12 students;
- Recordings and music scores should contain no reference to the name of the group, its conductor, or the festival from which it has been sent.

Class 9301 - School Concert Band

Class 9302 - School Jazz Band

Class 9303 - Community Concert Band

Class 9304 - Community Jazz Band

ORCHESTRA 9400

- The members of a school group must all be from the same school, up to and including Grade 12 students;
- Recordings and music scores should contain no reference to the name of the group, its conductor, or the festival from which it has been sent.

Class 9401 - School Full Orchestra [including strings, winds, and percussion]

Class 9402 - School String Orchestra

Class 9403 - Community Full Orchestra [including strings, winds, and percussion]

Class 9404 - Community String Orchestra

The Nova Scotia Provincial Music Festival provides an opportunity for the following types of composition to be submitted and adjudicated:

- **Solo/Duo** – for one or two instrument[s] or voice[s]. An accompaniment is permitted. Please indicate instrument[s] on your score.
- **Ensemble** – any combination of three or more instruments and/or voices, including orchestral and choral scores. Please indicate instruments/voices on your score.

COMPOSITION CLASS REGULATIONS

1. Participation is limited to unpublished works by non-professional composers;
2. **Participants are required to attend the Provincial Music Festival Finals in person.** Each entry will consist of a printed score [PDF] and a digital recording [live or midi] of the composition [MP3 or MP4], submitted electronically with registration by May 16th 2025. The performance does not have to be by the composer;
3. Each entry is assumed to be the original work of the individual whose name appears on the entry form attached to the manuscript. Any infraction of this regulation would result in the disqualification of the entry;
4. All rights to his/her original work will be retained by the composer; however, by entering the class you agree that your composition may be published, recorded, and available to be downloaded for public use from the FMFNS and FCMF websites, or employed by FMFNS and FCMF for publicity purposes after consultation with and agreement of the composer;
5. Manuscripts printed by computers are encouraged. Handwritten manuscripts should be neat and legibly written in black ink, in regulation manuscript size, including all necessary details of dynamics, editing, and tempo, with the first measure of each line numbered. Please retain the original copy of your submitted work;
6. **Maximum length of compositions in all classes is a performance time of 10 minutes;**
7. All entries must include a Title Page, including the name of the selection and instrumentation, and a short section of program notes or notes to the performer.

PROCESS

The competition is conducted at three progressive levels:

1. Local Festival

The maximum number of entries recommended from each Local Festival to compete at the Provincial Festival in National Music Festival classes is determined by the Provincial Associations.

Adjudicators at the Local Festival may choose, in each Composition class, two entries that are deemed to be of National standard. The competition is based on the submission of one original composition. A signed recommendation along with a recording and a digital copy of the music score must be submitted to the Provincial Administrator.

2. Provincial Festival

Entries recommended to the Provincial level of competition must be the same original composition that was recommended by the adjudicator at the Local level. Adjudicators at the Provincial level may choose, in each class, **one** composition that is deemed to be of a national standard.

The composition adjudicator for each provincial music festival is allowed to send 2 extra submissions, chosen from

across the classes, with no more than one extra submission per class. The signed recommendation along with the recording, a digital copy of the music score, and the entry fee as outlined above must be submitted by **June 30th**.

3. National Festival

Entries recommended to the National level must be the same original composition that was recommended by the adjudicator at the Local and Provincial levels. Compositions are adjudicated and the participants are notified.

CLASS 9500 – SOLO/DUO COMPOSITION

- A composition for one or two instruments[s] or voice[s];
- An accompaniment is permitted;
- **Maximum length of compositions in all classes is a performance time of 10 minutes;**
- All entries must include a Title Page, including the name of the selection and instrumentation, and a short section of age- appropriate programme notes or notes to the performer;
- Memorization is not required.
-

| Class | #9501 Advanced | #9502 Intermediate | #9503 Junior |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Age | 30 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under | 14 years of age and under |
| Entry Fee | \$150 | \$100 | \$75 |
| Registration Deadline | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 |

CLASS 9500 – ENSEMBLE COMPOSITION

- A composition for any combination of three or more instruments and/or voices, including orchestral and choral scores;
- **Maximum length of compositions in all classes is a performance time of 10 minutes;**
- All entries must include a Title Page, including the name of the selection and instrumentation, and a short section of age- appropriate programme notes or notes to the performer;
- Memorization is not required.

| Class | #9504 Advanced | #9504 Intermediate | #9504 Junior |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Age | 30 years of age and under | 18 years of age and under | 14 years of age and under |
| Entry Fee | \$150 | \$100 | \$75 |
| Registration Deadline | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 | 16 May, 2026 |