



2025

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
Athabasca and District Music Festival Association
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
Fort Saskatchewan 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
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 23, 2024

Dear Local Festivals, Teachers, and Competitors,

Please see below for how the decisions made at the 2024 AMFA AGM will affect Alberta festivals in the coming year.

2025 Syllabus Changes

Outside of minor edits and corrections, significant changes to the 2025 AMFA Syllabus include:

- **Stage Prop Rules for Musical Theatre and Speech:** Stage prop rules for speech have been put into place and the stage prop rules for Musical Theatre have been revised. Please ensure you read and understand these prop rules before entering either Speech or Musical Theatre classes.
- **Removal of Class – Contemporary Vocal Solo Movie/TV:** This class was being mostly entered with Musical Theatre selections. True contemporary vocal music may be entered into the genre or period specific Contemporary Vocal classes. For those wanting to enter Musical Theatre selections without costume or choreography, they should enter the new Musical Theatre – Broadway Solo class.
- **Addition of Class – Musical Theatre Broadway Solo:** This new class allows participants to sing Musical Theatre selections but does not require costume or choreography (as most of the other Musical Theatre classes do). Such selections are not provincially eligible but may be performed at the Local Festival.
- **Provincial Scholarship Amounts:** Nearly all scholarships at the Provincial Festival have been raised by \$50.00.

Saskatchewan Hosting the 2025 Canada West Performing Arts Festival

In partnership with the provincial performing arts festival associations of Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan, the fourth annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival (CWPAF) will be held in Saskatoon, SK on July 24-26, 2025.

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,

Carolyn Steeves

Carolyn Steeves
Vice 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 74).
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 74) 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.* Solo competitors entering Plan II (by Grade/Level) may not enter a lower grade in any subsequent year. Entering the same grade in a subsequent year is permitted.
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 74). 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. Competitors must provide an original score or authorized copy of music containing solo and accompaniment for the adjudicator. Public Domain copies (such as those sourced from IMSLP) are allowed providing the full URL is included on the title page. Anyone using digital music scores, including music purchased online,

must be prepared to show proof of purchase. All speech competitors must provide authorized originals of their selections. All copyrights must be observed.

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.

CHORUS – COMMUNITY

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

*Every choir member must be a bona fide member. Ten (10) percent of the choir membership may exceed a specified age limit by no more than two years.

*Brief Solo Passages are allowed only in one of the selections from a single Community 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.

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

20111	11 AND UNDER
20113	13 AND UNDER
20115	15 AND UNDER
20117	17 AND UNDER
20119	19 AND UNDER
20120	20 AND OVER

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

20211	11 AND UNDER
20213	13 AND UNDER
20215	15 AND UNDER
20217	17 AND UNDER
20219	19 AND UNDER
20220	20 AND OVER

CHORUS – CANADIAN COMPOSERS

Classical (serious), not pop.

ONE selection, own choice

20311	11 AND UNDER
20313	13 AND UNDER
20315	15 AND UNDER
20317	17 AND UNDER
20319	19 AND UNDER
20320	20 AND OVER

CHORUS – MEDIEVAL / RENAISSANCE

For AMFA purposes, music composed circa 1600 and prior. Includes composers such as Dufay, Palestrina, Byrd, and their contemporaries.

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

ONE selection, own choice

20411	11 AND UNDER
20413	13 AND UNDER
20415	15 AND UNDER
20417	17 AND UNDER
20419	19 AND UNDER
20420	20 AND OVER

CHORUS – BAROQUE

For AMFA purposes, music composed circa 1600-1750. Includes composers such as J.S. Bach, Handel, Pachelbel, Purcell, and Vivaldi, and their contemporaries.

ONE selection, own choice

20511	11 AND UNDER
20513	13 AND UNDER
20515	15 AND UNDER
20517	17 AND UNDER
20519	19 AND UNDER
20520	20 AND OVER

CHORUS – CLASSICAL PERIOD

For AMFA purposes, music composed circa 1750-1820. Includes composers such as C.P.E. Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and their contemporaries (including early works of Schubert).

ONE selection, own choice

20611	11 AND UNDER
20613	13 AND UNDER
20615	15 AND UNDER
20617	17 AND UNDER
20619	19 AND UNDER
20620	20 AND OVER

CHORUS – ROMANTIC

For AMFA purposes, music composed circa 1820-1900. Includes composers such as Berlioz, Brahms, Schumann, Verdi, and their contemporaries (including later works of Schubert).

ONE selection, own choice

20711	11 AND UNDER
20713	13 AND UNDER
20715	15 AND UNDER
20717	17 AND UNDER
20719	19 AND UNDER
20720	20 AND OVER

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

20811	11 AND UNDER
20813	13 AND UNDER
20815	15 AND UNDER
20817	17 AND UNDER
20819	19 AND UNDER
20820	20 AND OVER

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

20911	11 AND UNDER
20913	13 AND UNDER
20915	15 AND UNDER
20917	17 AND UNDER
20919	19 AND UNDER
20920	20 AND OVER

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). Total selections for class may be **TWO** or **THREE** movements of a multi movement work.

21011	11 AND UNDER
21013	13 AND UNDER
21015	15 AND UNDER
21017	17 AND UNDER
21019	19 AND UNDER
21020	20 AND OVER

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).

21111	11 AND UNDER
21113	13 AND UNDER
21115	15 AND UNDER
21117	17 AND UNDER
21119	19 AND UNDER
21120	20 AND OVER

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

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

TWO contrasting selections, own choice

21219	19 AND UNDER
21220	20 AND OVER

CHORAL JAZZ GROUP

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PROVINCIAL MUSIC FESTIVAL RECOMMENDATION

TWO selections, own choice

21300	CHORAL JAZZ GROUP
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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

21511	11 AND UNDER
21513	13 AND UNDER
21515	15 AND UNDER
21517	17 AND UNDER
21519	19 AND UNDER
21520	20 AND OVER

CHORUS – CHURCH AND OTHER SACRED

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PROVINCIAL MUSIC FESTIVAL RECOMMENDATION

- For church choirs or Sunday School class entries or other sacred music that does not fall into the “Classical Style” classes.
- The selection may be in parts, in unison, or in chant.

ONE sacred selection, own choice

21611	11 AND UNDER
21613	13 AND UNDER
21615	15 AND UNDER
21617	17 AND UNDER
21619	19 AND UNDER
21620	20 AND OVER

***For School Chorus, please see School Chorus section.**

***For Family Music and other Community Music classes, please see Family and Community Group section.**