

Festival Rules

NEW for 2026: To be eligible for recommendation to the provincial level in **solo** disciplines, participants **must** register for and participate in the **Provincial Qualifier Class** for their discipline. If selected, the participant **MUST** perform all the same pieces from the Qualifier Class at the provincial competition.

General

1. The Hamilton Music Festival Board shall oversee the administration of the competition. All questions not expressly covered herein shall be referred to the Board, whose determinations shall be final and binding upon all participants.
2. Refunds will **NOT** be provided unless the Festival cancels the class or denies the entry.
3. The festival reserves the right to divide or combine classes.
4. Where age limits are specified, participants must be of the prescribed age on December 31st of the year prior to the festival to be entered.
5. All competitors must be amateurs. For the purposes of this festival, an *amateur* shall be defined as: an individual whose primary source of income is **not** derived from performing or teaching music in the specific category in which they are competing, even if they occasionally receive payment for musical activities on a part-time or casual basis. Competitors who are full or junior members of either ACTRA or EQUITY are considered professional and are ineligible, unless they are competing in a different discipline that is not in line with the reason for their ACTRA or EQUITY membership.
6. Conductors may be either professional or amateur. Conductors may not sing or play with their orchestra, choir or ensemble.
7. Please note that the festival will run on weekdays and Saturdays, from 8:30am until 9:00pm, and classes may be scheduled at any time during that period. Participants are expected to be present at their scheduled time, and **no changes will be made once the program has been set.**

Performance

8. RCM stands for the Royal Conservatory of Music, and CC stands for Conservatory Canada. The most recent Conservatory Syllabus edition must be used. In the event of a new RCM or CC Syllabus, crossover times will follow the standard practices of either conservatory.
9. All pieces must be performed from memory. The use of music will result in adjudication only, with no mark given. Exceptions are noted in individual classes.
10. Unless otherwise specified in the RCM or CC syllabus, all instrumental pieces must be played without repeats. Da Capos and Dal Segnos must be observed.
11. Time limits, where specified, will be strictly enforced.
12. Vocal, strings, and woodwinds participants must provide their own live accompaniment. Exceptions are noted in individual classes. Accompanist fees are **not** included in registration fees and are the responsibility of the participants.
13. All participants must supply an original copy of their music for the adjudicator. Accompanists are permitted to use photocopies **as long as the original, legally obtained score is present at the piano.**

Entries

14. All entries **must be received** by **11:59pm, February 15** and accompanied by the appropriate fee for each class. Late entries *may* be considered at the committee's discretion and, if accepted, will be subject to an additional fee.



Music Festival 2026

15. It is the responsibility of teachers to ensure that students have registered with the correct repertoire in the appropriate classes.
16. Entry fees will not be refunded.
17. Online registrations can be paid by credit card or e-transfer. If paying by e-transfer, please send it to info@hamiltonmusicfestival.ca and **include the invoice number** in the comment section. E-transfers must be received within 24 hours of completing your registration.
18. With the exception of the Sinfonia Ancaster Performance Opportunity class, a selection may **not** be used in more than one class. Repertoire performed the previous year in the Hamilton Music Festival must not be repeated.
19. Participants are limited to one entry per class unless otherwise noted.
20. Participants are required to compete at their current grade or level; however, they may enter one class in the level immediately above.
21. Participants entering grade/level classes must not have completed a conservatory exam at that grade level prior to January 1st, 2026.
22. For all duet, trio and ensemble classes, only one participant enters and pays the fee. Please list partners on the registration form.
23. Participants' schedules will be available online in March. Parents, teachers and accompanists who have been linked to the participant will also be able to view the schedules.

Adjudication

24. Adjudicators' decisions are final.
25. Adjudicators may not evaluate their own students.
26. Participants may be required to certify that the festival rules have been followed. If an infringement occurs, adjudication may be given, but no mark awarded.
27. The adjudicator will discuss the performance of each participant, but only the marks of the top three performers may be publicly announced. All participants will receive the adjudicator's written comments.
28. To be eligible for a scholarship, a student **must** enter and participate in two or more classes within the same discipline. (*Exceptions: Music Writing and Choirs.*) All scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the adjudicators.
Note: Classical Voice and Musical Theatre are considered separate disciplines. *Pop/Jazz* and *Songs from the Screen and More* are included under Musical Theatre.
29. Questions should be directed to the secretary or the festival coordinator, not to the adjudicator.
30. **NEW for 2026:** To be eligible for recommendation to the provincial level in **solo** disciplines, participants **must** register for and participate in the **Provincial Qualifier Class** for their discipline. If selected, *all* pieces performed in the Qualifier Class must be presented at the provincial competition.

** Those hoping to receive a recommendation to advance to the provincials, please visit: www.omfa.ca for the requirements.



Classical Voice

NEW for 2026: To be considered for recommendation to the provincial level for solo classical voice, participants must register for and take part in the **Provincial Qualifier Class**. If recommended, *all* selections performed in the Qualifier Class *must* be presented at the provincial competition.

A selection may be used in one class only. Please list **complete** title. No pop or musical theatre repertoire unless otherwise indicated. Songs may be transposed to suit the voice. Exceptions: Operetta, Opera and Oratorio. Accompanists are permitted to use photocopies, **as long as the original, legally obtained score** is present at the piano. Memorization is not required for mature singers (45 & up).

Solo

One selection, own choice from the current RCM or CC Syllabus.

20101 - Preparatory	\$27.00
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List A

Any List A piece from the current RCM or CC Syllabus.

20201 - Grade/Level 1	\$27.00
20202 - Grade/Level 2	\$27.00
20203 - Grade/Level 3	\$27.00
20204 - Grade/Level 4	\$27.00
20205 - Grade/Level 5	\$30.00
20206 - Grade/Level 6	\$30.00
20207 - Grade/Level 7	\$30.00
20208 - Grade/Level 8	\$30.00
20209 - Grade/Level 9	\$32.00



Music Festival 2026

Classical Voice Syllabus

List A (continued)

20210 - Grade/Level 10	\$32.00
20211 - Associate/Diploma	\$36.00
20212 - Post-Associate/Open	\$36.00

List B

Any List B piece from the current RCM or CC syllabus.

20301 - Grade/Level 1	\$27.00
20302 - Grade/Level 2	\$27.00
20303 - Grade/Level 3	\$27.00
20304 - Grade/Level 4	\$27.00
20305 - Grade/Level 5	\$30.00
20306 - Grade/Level 6	\$30.00
20307 - Grade/Level 7	\$30.00
20308 - Grade/Level 8	\$30.00
20309 - Grade/Level 9	\$32.00
20310 - Grade/Level 10	\$32.00
20311 - Associate/Diploma	\$36.00
20312 - Post-Associate/Open	\$36.00

List C

Any List C piece from the current RCM or CC syllabus.

20401 - Grade/Level 7	\$30.00
20402 - Grade/Level 8	\$30.00
20403 - Grade/Level 9	\$32.00
20404 - Grade/Level 10	\$32.00
20405 - Associate/Diploma	\$36.00
20406 - Post-Associate/Open	\$36.00

Canadian Composer

Any original song by a Canadian composer may be performed, in any style -- including jazz or pop. The selection may, but does not have to, appear in the current RCM or CC syllabus. Commissioned works are permitted. The chosen piece should be appropriate for the performer's grade/level. Maximum time limit is 5 minutes.

20501 - Beginner Girls: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
20502 - Beginner Boys: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
20503 - Primary Girls: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
20504 - Primary Boys: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
20505 - Elementary Girls: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
20506 - Elementary Boys: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
20507 - Junior Girls: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
20508 - Junior Boys: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
20509 - Intermediate Girls: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
20510 - Intermediate Boys: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00

Canadian Composer (continued)

20511 - Senior: Ages 17 - 18	\$32.00
20512 - Advanced: Ages 19 - 28	\$36.00
20513 - Mature Singers: Ages 29 - 44	\$36.00
20514 - Mature Singers: 45 & up <i>Memorization is not required</i>	\$36.00

Folk Song / Folk Style Song - English

One selection, own choice. Folk song, arranged or composed. May be accompanied by an instrument other than piano. Maximum time limit is 4 minutes.

20601 - Beginner Girls: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
20602 - Beginner Boys: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
20603 - Primary Girls: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
20604 - Primary Boys: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
20605 - Elementary Girls: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
20606 - Elementary Boys: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
20607 - Junior Girls: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
20608 - Junior Boys: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
20609 - Intermediate Girls: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
20610 - Intermediate Boys: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
20611 - Senior: Ages 17 - 18	\$32.00
20612 - Advanced: Ages 19 - 28	\$36.00
20613 - Mature Singers: 29 - 44	\$36.00

Folk Song / Folk Style Song - English (continued)

20614 - Mature Singers: Ages 45 & up <i>Memorization is not required</i>	\$36.00
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Folk Song / Folk Style Song - Non-English

One selection, own choice. Folk song, arranged or composed. May be accompanied by an instrument other than piano. Maximum time limit is 4 minutes.

20701 - Beginner Girls: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
20702 - Beginner Boys: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
20703 - Primary Girls: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
20704 - Primary Boys: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
20705 - Elementary Girls: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
20706 - Elementary Boys: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
20707 - Junior Girls: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
20708 - Junior Boys: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
20709 - Intermediate Girls: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
20710 - Intermediate Boys: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
20711 - Senior: Ages 17 - 18	\$32.00
20712 - Advanced: Ages 19 - 28	\$36.00
20713 - Mature Singers: Ages 29 - 44	\$36.00
20714 - Mature Singers: Ages 45 & up <i>Memorization is not required</i>	\$36.00

Sacred: Classical Style

One selection, own choice of any classical sacred work. No oratorio or cantata arias (see classes 21201 - 21208). Maximum time limit is 4 minutes.

20801 - Beginner Girls: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
20802 - Beginner Boys: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
20803 - Primary Girls: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
20804 - Primary Boys: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
20805 - Elementary Girls: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
20806 - Elementary Boys: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
20807 - Junior Girls: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
20808 - Junior Boys: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
20809 - Intermediate Girls: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
20810 - Intermediate Boys: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
20811 - Senior: Ages 17 - 18	\$32.00
20812 - Advanced: Ages 19 - 28	\$36.00
20813 - Mature Singers: Ages 29 - 44	\$36.00
20814 - Mature Singers: Ages 45 & up <i>Memorization is not required</i>	\$36.00

Sacred: Contemporary Style

One selection, own choice of any non-classical or non-classical-style sacred work. Maximum time limit is 4 minutes.

20901 - Beginner Girls: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
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Sacred: Contemporary Style (continued)

20902 - Beginner Boys: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
20903 - Primary Girls: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
20904 - Primary Boys: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
20905 - Elementary Girls: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
20906 - Elementary Boys: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
20907 - Junior Girls: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
20908 - Junior Boys: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
20909 - Intermediate Girls: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
20910 - Intermediate Boys: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
20911 - Senior: Ages 17 - 18	\$32.00
20912 - Advanced: Ages 19 - 28	\$36.00
20913 - Mature Singers: Ages 29 - 44	\$36.00
20914 - Mature Singers: Ages 45 & up <i>Memorization is not required</i>	\$36.00

Operetta or Light Opera

Example: Herbert, Lehar, J. Strauss, Romberg, Friml, Gilbert & Sullivan. One Selection, own choice.

21001 - Girls: Ages 14 & under	\$30.00
21002 - Boys: Ages 14 & under	\$30.00
21003 - Intermediate Girls: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
21004 - Intermediate Boys: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00

Operetta or Light Opera (continued)

21005 - Senior: Ages 17 - 18	\$32.00
21006 - Advanced: Ages 19 - 28	\$36.00
21007 - Mature Singers: Ages 29 - 44	\$36.00
21008 - Mature Singers: Ages 45 & up <i>Memorization is not required</i>	\$36.00

Operatic Arias

One selection, own choice. Include recitative where applicable.

21101 - Girls: Ages 14 & under	\$30.00
21102 - Boys: Ages 14 & under	\$30.00
21103 - Intermediate Girls: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
21104 - Intermediate Boys: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
21105 - Senior: Ages 17 - 18	\$32.00
21106 - Advanced: Ages 19 - 28	\$36.00
21107 - Mature Singers: Ages 29 - 44	\$36.00
21108 - Mature Singers: Ages 45 & up <i>Memorization is not required</i>	\$36.00

Oratorio

One selection, own choice oratorio or cantata aria. Memorization is not required.

21201 - Girls: Ages 14 & under	\$30.00
21202 - Boys: Ages 14 & under	\$30.00



Music Festival 2026

Classical Voice Syllabus

Oratorio (continued)

21203 - Intermediate Girls: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
21204 - Intermediate Boys: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
21205 - Senior: Ages 17 - 18	\$32.00
21206 - Advanced: Ages 19 - 28	\$36.00
21207 - Mature Singers: Ages 29 - 44	\$36.00
21208 - Mature Singers: Ages 45 & up	\$36.00

Concert Class

NOTE: This is **not** a Provincial Qualifier Class. (For Provincial Qualifier Class, see 21701 - 21708)

Repertoire Requirements:

- **Grades/Levels 1–5:** Perform **two solo songs**
- **Grade/Level 6 and above:** Perform **three solo songs**
- Selections must demonstrate **stylistic contrast**
- Popular music, musical theatre, and operetta selections **are not permitted**
- Selections **may**, but are **not required to**, be from the RCM syllabus or the CC syllabus
- Appropriateness of repertoire will factored into the overall evaluation.
- For **Grade/Level 5 and above**, selections must be performed in **at least two different languages**
- Performances should be presented in a **concert-style format** (ie no need to wait for the adjudicator between selections).

21301 - Grade/Level 1	\$37.00
21302 - Grade/Level 2	\$37.00
21303 - Grade/Level 3	\$37.00
21304 - Grade/Level 4	\$37.00
21305 - Grade/Level 5	\$40.00
21306 - Grade/Level 6 <i>Maximum 15 minutes</i>	\$40.00

Concert Class (continued)

21307 - Grade/Level 7 <i>Maximum 15 minutes</i>	\$40.00
21308 - Grade/Level 8 <i>Maximum 25 minutes</i>	\$40.00
21309 - Grade/Level 9 <i>Maximum 25 minutes</i>	\$42.00
21310 - Grade/Level 10 <i>Maximum 35 minutes</i>	\$42.00
21311 - Associate/Diploma <i>Maximum 40 minutes</i>	\$46.00
21312 - Post-Associate/Open <i>Maximum 40 minutes</i>	\$46.00

English Art Song

One selection. Must be sung in English, with English as the original language. Acceptable choices include arranged folk songs, English art songs, or works by American composers.

21401 - Beginner Girls: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
21402 - Beginner Boys: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
21403 - Primary Girls: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
21404 - Primary Boys: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
21405 - Elementary Girls: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
21406 - Elementary Boys: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
21407 - Junior Girls: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
21408 - Junior Boys: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00

English Art Song (continued)

21409 - Intermediate Girls: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
21410 - Intermediate Boys: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
21411 - Senior: Ages 17 - 18	\$32.00
21412 - Advanced: Ages 19 - 28	\$36.00
21413 - Mature Singers: Ages 29 - 44	\$36.00
21414 - Mature Singers: Ages 45 & up <i>Memorization is not required</i>	\$36.00

Foreign Language Art Song

One selection, own choice of French mélodie, German Lied, Italian art song or Spanish repertoire, in original language.

21501 - Beginner Girls: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
21502 - Beginner Boys: Ages 8 & under	\$27.00
21503 - Primary Girls: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
21504 - Primary Boys: Ages 9 - 10	\$27.00
21505 - Elementary Girls: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
21506 - Elementary Boys: Ages 11 - 12	\$27.00
21507 - Junior Girls: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
21508 - Junior Boys: Ages 13 - 14	\$30.00
21509 - Intermediate Girls: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
21510 - Intermediate Boys: Ages 15 - 16	\$30.00
21511 - Senior: Ages 17 - 18	\$32.00



Foreign Language Art Song (continued)

21512 - Advanced: Ages 19 - 28	\$36.00
21513 - Mature Singers: Ages 29 - 44	\$36.00
21514 - Mature Singers: Ages 45 & up <i>Memorization is not required</i>	\$36.00



Duets and Trios

Participants in this class *may* be recommended to advance to the provincial level of competition. All provincial classes for this category are virtual (online) only.

This class features performances for **two or three voices of any combination**.

- **Only one participant** is required to register and pay the entry fee.
- Please include the **name(s) of your partner(s)** when registering.

Repertoire Guidelines:

- Perform **one classical selection only**.
- Enter the class based on the **age of the oldest performer** in the duet or trio.
- If any member is performing at the **associate level or higher**, the group must register in the **Advanced Class**, regardless of age.
- **Memorization is optional**.

The **Bernice Bennett Memorial Music Scholarship for Duet** is available to **duet performers aged 12–18** in any musical discipline.

21601 - Beginner: Ages 6 - 8 <i>Maximum 5 minutes</i>	\$34.00
21602 - Primary: Ages 9 - 10 <i>Maximum 5 minutes</i>	\$34.00
21603 - Elementary: Ages 11 - 12 <i>Maximum 5 minutes</i>	\$34.00



Duets and Trios (continued)

21604 - Junior: Ages 13 - 14 <i>Maximum 8 minutes</i>	\$36.00
21605 - Intermediate: Ages 15 - 16 <i>Maximum 10 minutes</i>	\$42.00
21606 - Senior: Ages 17 - 18 <i>Maximum 10 minutes</i>	\$42.00
21607 - Advanced: Ages 19 - 28 <i>Maximum 10 minutes</i>	\$42.00
21608 - Adults: Ages 29 & up <i>Maximum 8 minutes</i>	\$42.00
21609 - Adult and child(ren) [adult = 19 & up with younger child(ren)] <i>Maximum 10 minutes</i>	\$42.00

Provincial Qualifier - Classical Voice - Solo

This class is intended solely for participants seeking recommendation to advance to the provincial level of competition. If a participant receives a recommendation to the provincials, *all* selections performed in this class must also be presented at the provincial competition. Beginner and Primary Levels would be virtual (online) only.

Repertoire selection is at the participant's discretion but **must be classical in style** (e.g., art songs, traditional folk songs).

- The **RCM and CC syllabi** may be used as **guidelines**, but selections **are not limited** to those lists.
- Pieces may be chosen from **the same or different grade/level**, as appropriate to the participant's abilities.
- **Selections must be musically contrasting.**

Not Permitted:

- Repertoire from the **RCM Popular Selection List** and **CC Idioms List**
- **Musical theatre** and **contemporary popular music**
- **RCM List C (Levels 1–7)** and **List D (Levels 7–10)**
- **More than one song from the same song cycle** (only one selection per cycle may be used)

Permitted (in some classes):

- **Operatic, oratorio, and operetta selections** suitable for the participant's voice are allowed **only if listed on the official Provincials' repertoire list** (<https://omfa.ca>)

For complete rules and further guidelines, visit <https://omfa.ca>.

Provincial Qualifier - Classical Voice - Solo (continued)

21701 - Beginner: Ages 6 - 8 <i>Two selections, any language; maximum 8 minutes</i>	\$42.00
21702 - Primary: Ages 9 - 10 <i>Two selections, any language; maximum 8 minutes</i>	\$42.00
21703 - Elementary: Ages 11 - 12 <i>Two selections, any language; maximum 10 minutes</i>	\$45.00
21704 - Junior: Ages 13 - 14 <i>Two selections, any language; maximum 10 minutes</i>	\$45.00
21705 - Intermediate: Ages 15 - 16 <i>Two selections, any language; maximum 10 minutes</i>	\$45.00
21706 - Senior: Ages 17 - 18 Three selections, any language; maximum 15 minutes	\$47.00
21707 - Advanced: Ages 19 - 28 Four selections, minimum of two languages. One selection must be opera, operetta or oratorio. Maximum 20 minutes	\$51.00
21708 - Adults: Ages 29 & over <i>Two selections, any language; maximum 15 minutes</i>	\$47.00