

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Rules that are new this year are in bold for easy reference.

### **1. MANAGEMENT OF FESTIVAL**

- 1.1 The competitions shall be under the working management of the Executive Committee, which is hereafter called the "Committee". Any questions not dealt with in these Rules shall be referred to the Committee, whose decision on such matters shall be final and binding to all concerned.
- 1.2 Recommendations for changes in the Syllabus must be submitted in writing to the Syllabus Committee at the Festival mailing address. **Deadline for these submissions for the 2027 Festival is September 30, 2026. No changes can be made in the present Syllabus.** Questions may be directed to Nadine Lane, Festival Administrator: [info@nbfestivalofmusic.ca](mailto:info@nbfestivalofmusic.ca) or 506-647-0253.
- 1.3 All written communication should be directed to the Festival Address:  
New Brunswick Festival of Music  
239 St. James Street West  
Saint John, NB E2M 2E7  
E-mail: [info@nbfestivalofmusic.ca](mailto:info@nbfestivalofmusic.ca)  
Website: [www.nbfestivalofmusic.ca](http://www.nbfestivalofmusic.ca)

### **2. ELIGIBILITY**

- 2.1 Professionals may perform in Choral Societies, Choirs, Orchestras and Bands provided they are bona fide members of the group.
- 2.2 An amateur shall be deemed as follows: Any person whose principal means of livelihood is not obtained from musical work, even if he or she from time to time accepts remuneration for musical services rendered.
- 2.3 Competitors shall not be over the specified age limits on January 1, 2026.

6 years and under.....	(born 2019 or later)
7 years and under.....	(born 2018 or later)
8 years and under.....	(born 2017 or later)
9 years and under.....	(born 2016 or later)
10 years and under.....	(born 2015 or later)
11 years and under.....	(born 2014 or later)
12 years and under.....	(born 2013 or later)
13 years and under.....	(born 2012 or later)
14 years and under.....	(born 2011 or later)
15 years and under.....	(born 2010 or later)
16 years and under.....	(born 2009 or later)
17 years and under.....	(born 2008 or later)
18 years and under.....	(born 2007 or later)
19 years and under.....	(born 2006 or later)
20 years and under.....	(born 2005 or later)
- 2.4 Conductors may conduct any number of groups in the same class.
- 2.5 Competitors may not enter solo classes for a single instrument at more than one age, grade or performance level.
- 2.6 Competitors who enter a specific class level in the music festival may not enter a lower age group the following year, even if the student is age appropriate.

2.7 For the competition for the Lincoln and Mathieson Trophies the following rule is laid down by the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals: "A Junior Choir shall be composed of members 19 years and under, and a Senior Choir of members 19 years and over, with an allowance of up to six Choristers that do not conform to the age limit, providing each is a bona fide member of the choir, and that Men's and Boy's choirs shall be eligible in the latter category".

### **3. ENTRIES AND ENTRY FORMS**

3.1 Correct entries are the sole responsibility of the competitor.

3.2 **Entries must be postmarked no later than February 13, 2026. Late entries will not be accepted.**

3.3 Entries will be accepted by Online ONLY (<http://nbfm.musicfestivalsuite.com/>) Payment (PayPal, E-transfer, cheque or money order) must be included in full with your entry. Post-dated cheques will NOT be accepted. **Entries sent by mail will be subject to a \$10 Processing Fee.** Send entries to: New Brunswick Competitive Festival of Music, 239 St. James Street West, Saint John, NB, E2M 2E7 marked ENTRY FORM. Questions with regards to rules in the syllabus must be submitted by email to: [info@nbfestivalofmusic.ca](mailto:info@nbfestivalofmusic.ca)

3.4 Entry Form must specify Title, Composer, Grade Level and/or Source and Performance Time of any OWN CHOICE selections. Incomplete entries (including accompanist information) will not be accepted. Information must include the participant's contact and mailing information as well as the teacher and accompanist information, even if the teacher wishes to receive the confirmation letters.

3.5 To withdraw from a class, the participant must notify: Nadine Lane, Festival Administrator 506-647-0253 or in writing to the Festival email address.

3.6 A refund of class fees will be provided only under the following conditions: due to medical reasons or due to a conflict with another Festival class. The Festival makes every effort to accommodate personal schedules so conflicts such as exams do not qualify for a refund. Refunds must be requested in writing to the Festival address.

3.7 Choirs, orchestras, bands and service clubs must state the number of members participating on the Entry Form. All participants must have been bona fide members for at least one month prior to the deadline set for entries. All members must be enrolled in the school which they represent.

3.8 No entry will be considered unless accompanied by the Entry Fee and made on the correct Entry Form. No Postdated cheques will be accepted.

3.9 A list of publishers to assist teachers may be found on page 2. Please contact your local dealer regarding availability.

### **4. REPERTOIRE & SIGHT READING/QUICK STUDY**

4.1 Repeats are to be omitted except in D.C., D.S., and Minuet and Trio form, and if there is a note below the music stating that repeats are to be played.

4.2 Folk songs may be sung in any language, but a translation must be provided for the adjudicator.

4.3 TRANSPOSITION: In choir and vocal classes, test pieces should be sung in the key in which the piece is written. All own choice music, including Hymn and Folk Songs, may be transposed one tone. Musical Theatre class participants may transpose the selection to the key which best suits the voice of the student.

4.4 For all choral classes, teachers are asked to announce selections from the stage. Information about **Own Choice selections MUST be provided to the Festival Administrator no later than April 3, 2026.**

- 4.5 A copy of Own Choice music for the use of the adjudicator must be delivered to the Hall Convenor 30 minutes before the class. This is the sole responsibility of the Competitor and this music must be picked up immediately following the class. The Festival will not be responsible after that time.
- 4.6 Own Choice music must bear the name of the owner and the number of the class in which it is being performed.
- 4.7 Where there are two selections, they MUST be contrasting.
- 4.8 Own choice selections must not be a selection used by the Contestant in the three previous Festivals, or a selection already included in the current Syllabus.
- 4.9 Quick Study participants will receive the music no less than 48 hours in advance of their class by email. This class is intended to be an independent study but assistance from the competitor's teacher and rehearsal in advance for the class is permitted.
- 4.10 Sight Reading will be conducted with only the adjudicator and participant in the performance hall. All other audience members/volunteers will be asked to wait in the hall. The adjudicator will allow time for the student to review the excerpt before beginning the sight reading. In the case of vocal sight reading, the starting pitch and tonic chord will be played.

## **5. PROGRAM PROCEDURE**

- 5.1 THE ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION IS FINAL.
- 5.2 Competitors are not permitted to rehearse in the official halls during the Festival or in the two weeks leading up to the Festival. Competitors risk disqualification if this occurs.
- 5.3 All competitors must report their presence in the hall specified a full half-hour before their scheduled performance.
- 5.4 Competitors will be designated from the platform in order according to the official program.
- 5.5 The chord may be given on the piano at the commencement of each piece of unaccompanied music.
- 5.6 In Junior String classes, competitors may have their instrument tuned by a teacher or other person.
- 5.7 The adjudicator's written report will be given to every competitor at the end of each class.
- 5.8 Coaching or directing from the hall by teachers during a student's performance will NOT be tolerated and anyone found doing so will be asked to leave the Hall.
- 5.9 First, second and third place winners of each class will be announced at the adjudicator's discretion, but first place must be announced.
- 5.10 Competitors, teachers, directors and parents are asked not to communicate with the adjudicator regarding a performance until the individual or group has completed all classes of competition. Anyone doing so risks disqualification or adjudication without a mark. Questions or required information may be directed to the adjudicator's secretary, who will inform or consult with the adjudicator and, if necessary, convey that information back to the person concerned.
- 5.11 Choirs may change the order of the pieces they are singing within individual classes, however, the actual class order as listed in the program may NOT be changed.
- 5.12 Memorization of pieces to be performed in the Festival is strongly encouraged.
- 5.13 Where there are discrepancies between class specifications as outlined in the Syllabus and selections of repertoire entered in Own Choice classes, contestants will be allowed, in such case, to perform and will receive an adjudication but no mark.
- 5.14 Competitors may enter in one age group only in any Duet class for a particular instrument. For example, a competitor cannot enter in the 10 and under piano duets AND 11 and under piano duets. They can, however, enter 10 and under Vocal duets and 11 and under Piano duets.

## 6. MUSIC AND PHOTOCOPIES

- 6.1 Photocopies are not acceptable and performers using such will be disqualified. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the New Brunswick Competitive Festival of Music wish to advise all Participants that in keeping with the Canadian Copyright Law it is illegal to copy any substantial portion of music or musical text bearing copyright without written permission from the copyright holder. As such, no copies of copyright music will be accepted at this Festival and presentment of any such copy by or on behalf of a participant will result in the participant's immediate disqualification.
- 6.2 Accompanists, string players and instrumentalists may use copies for page turning purposes ONLY provided originals are also present.
- 6.3 Music that is legally downloaded from an online music store for use by a competitor is allowed provided the competitor has proof of payment (music store download receipt) and presents the receipt to enable them to qualify for competition in the Festival. Failure to provide proof of payment will result in the competitor being disqualified.
- 6.4 Accompanists, conductors, string players and instrumentalists will be permitted to use tablets (iPad, PlayBook, etc.) throughout competition provided that original scores are also present in the hall.

## 7. PROTESTS

- 7.1 Complaints or protests must be made to the Festival Executive in writing, during the Festival and must be accompanied by a fee equivalent to the amount of the Entry Fee of the class protested. If the protest is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

## 8. ACCOMPANISTS

- 8.1 All, Vocal, String and Woodwind participants must have an accompanist unless the class is specified as "Unaccompanied" in the Syllabus.
- 8.2 Accompanists must use original copies of all music in accordance with Section 6 in the Rules and Regulations.
- 8.3 Competitors are responsible for providing their own accompanists.

## 9. CONCERTS

- 9.1 **To be eligible for concert participation**, individual competitors must perform in two or more classes, (where applicable) PLUS Sight Reading or Quick Study, where applicable. **For a choir to be eligible for concert participation**, said choir must perform at least 3 selections (minimum 2 classes). The choir must be made up of the same members in each class.
- 9.2 The adjudicators will make the decision as to who will perform at the Junior, Intermediate and Founder's Night Concerts. The selection(s) to be performed will be chosen by the adjudicator in consultation with the performer and/or teacher.
- 9.3 A maximum of six (6) performers will be selected to participate in the Intermediate Concert. Each performer will be limited to one selection not longer than 6 minutes. Performances longer than the imposed time limit risk disqualification.
- 9.4 A maximum of seven (7) solo performers will be selected to participate in the Founder's Night Concert. Each performer will be limited to a selection of not longer than 10 minutes. Where a selected piece is less than 6 minutes, a second piece may be added as long as the time limit is respected. Performances longer than the imposed time limit risk disqualification.
- 9.5 A maximum of six (6) group performances will be included in the Founder's Night Concert. The groups will be chosen at the discretion of the adjudicators. Each group will be limited to a performance of no longer than 8 minutes. Performances longer than the imposed time limit risk disqualification. Groups are not eligible to be named Star of the Festival.

- 9.6 Only repertoire up to and including Grade 6 will be allowed for the Junior Concert. This applies to all disciplines.
- 9.7 Competitors in classes using the gold/silver/bronze marking system will still be considered for participation in the junior Concert.
- 9.8 The Adjudicators' decisions are final. Adjudicators' reserve the right to override time limit and participant restrictions.

## **10. CERTIFICATES, AWARDS, AND TROPIES**

- 10.1 The selection of recipients for awards is at the discretion of the adjudicators. The decision of the adjudicators is final.
- 10.2 **To be eligible for awards and/or concert participation**, individual competitors must perform in two or more classes, (where applicable) PLUS Sight Reading or Quick Study, where applicable. For a choir to be eligible for an award, trophy and/or concert participation, said choir must perform at least 3 selections (minimum 2 classes). The choir must be made up of the same members in each class.
- 10.3 In Sight Reading classes, competitors must attain a mark of at least 60%. The mark will not be counted in the consideration for awards (except the Lillian Clarke Award, Piano 14 years, and specifically designated Sight Reading awards, in which it will be included).
- 10.4 If, in the opinion of the adjudicator, a sufficiently high standard has not been met, no award will be made.
- 10.5 The following classes will receive certificates of merit for their participation in the Festival. Competitors will receive certificates with Gold, Silver, Bronze, Merit and Participation designations. First, second and third place winners will be announced.

Original composition

Piano classes – 6 & under, 7 & under, and 8 & under

Vocal classes – 6 & under, 7 & under, and 8 & under

String classes – Preparatory and Level 1

Instrumental classes – Beginner classes

All competitive elementary school choir classes

All competitive band classes

All competitive orchestra classes.

Gold, Silver, Bronze marking system:

Gold 90 and above

Silver 85 – 89

Bronze 80 – 84

The Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates do not indicate a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place standing in a class. They represent a performance achievement.

There is no set number of Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates allotted for each class. By way of example: in a class, five may receive Gold certificates and the remainder receives Silver and Bronze. The participant with the highest Gold "wins" the class. The same class may receive no Gold, only Silver and Bronze, in which case the participant with the highest Silver "wins" the class.

## **11. PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY**

- 11.1 Photography & Videography are permitted from the designated area of the hall. No use of flash is permitted. Audience members may only photograph or video performances with the competitor's permission. Adjudicator workshops may not be recorded.

## **MUSIC FESTIVAL CLASS SCHEDULING GUIDELINES**

The Music Festival tries very hard to accommodate all participants, but it is an extremely difficult task, and rarely does it work out so that everyone is satisfied. In an attempt to regulate it so that both the scheduling committee and the participants, teachers and parents understand the process, we have attempted to outline the parameters within which the scheduling committee is required to work within as approved by the NB Competitive Festival of Music Inc. Board of Directors.

The following are what the Music Festival will use as a guide when scheduling classes. They are listed in order of priority. Changes may occur to this outline if or as needs arise. Individual requests will not be accepted at any time.

1. The classes must be scheduled to be most economical in terms of the adjudicators. When adjudicators are in Saint John working for the festival, they should be working a minimum of 4–6 hours each day with an 8-hour day being preferable. There are also National guidelines we must adhere to which do not allow us to schedule them more than two sessions in a row.
2. Attempts will be made to arrange the schedule so that people participating in more than one instrument will be able to make all their classes. However, it is not always possible, and the participant may be required to choose which class they wish to enter if a conflict cannot be resolved.
3. Attempts will be made to accommodate International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

The following are potential conflicts which the Music Festival will not consider when drafting the class schedule.

- A. Extracurricular school or non-school activities such as sports practices/games, musicals/drama programs, non-IB or AP tests or exams.
- B. Conflicts with accompanist.

### **Refunds**

If there is a conflict that cannot be resolved a refund may be issued. Refund requests must be submitted in writing to the Festival Administrator BEFORE the first day of the music festival. Requests received after the festival starts will not be considered. Requests will be evaluated by the Festival Administrator.