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KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL

A SERVICE PROJECT OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF KITCHENER-WATERLOO SINCE 1948

2026 SYLLABUS

Last Updated: December 1, 2026

FESTIVAL DATES: April 7th to April 25th, 2026

The festival website remains the official source for news and updates.

www.kwkiwanismusicfestival.com

Disclaimer: The KW Kiwanis Music Festival Syllabus is subject to change. The version posted on the website will be the most up to date and official syllabus.

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KW KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL: RULES, REGULATIONS & GUIDELINES

1. SHORT FORMS FOR ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS & SYLLABI

KWKMF	Kitchener-Waterloo Kiwanis Music Festival
OMFA	Ontario Music Festivals Association
RCM	Royal Conservatory of Music
CC	Canada Conservatory of Music
CCM	Central Conservatory of Music
SHCM	Shanghai Conservatory of Music
CMA	Chinese Musicians Association
LC	Loud and Clear: A Guide to Levelled Piano Music by Women Composers
SSAM	Songs from the Screen and More (OMFA Syllabus List)
KWCO	Kitchener-Waterloo Community Orchestra
IMSLP	International Music Score Library Project

2. RESOURCES & LINKS

KWKMF Website	kwkiwanismusicfestival.com
OMFA Website	omfa.ca
CCM Website	en.ccom.edu.cn/
SHCM Website	en.shcmusic.edu.cn/main.htm
IMSLP	imslp.org
CC Syllabi	conservatorycanada.ca/syllabi/
CCM Syllabi	bccma.net/product/3188/
SHCM Syllabi	mp.weixin.qq.com/s/yg39V6f1cpy_SET3tgL1aw
RCM Syllabi	rcmusic.com/learning/examinations/academic-resources-and-policies/syllabi-and-syllabi-errata
SSAM Syllabus	omfa.ca/ssam-chart
LC Syllabus	80dayspublishing.com/products/loud-and-clear-curated-by-olivia-adams

3. REGISTRATION & ACCOUNTS

- 3.1 **Agreement** By registering for the KWKMF you agree to be bound the festival Rules, Regulations & Guidelines. Participants may be disqualified from any or all present and future festival activities, awards, or honours in situations where festival rules are explicitly disregarded.
- 3.2 **Right of Refusal** KWKMF has the right to refuse any registration for any reason.
- 3.3 **Registration** Registration must be done online via the [KWKMF Website](http://kwkiwanismusicfestival.com). Click on [Syllabus & Registration](#) in the Festival menu and select the appropriate category to find class details and select the class(es) you wish to register for. Registration can be completed by a parent, teacher, or adult student.
- 3.4 **Registration Waiver** Registrants will be required to consent to a release waiver at the time of registration, acknowledging that KWKMF Rules & Regulations must be abided by all participants. If you are completing registration for an ensemble, it is the registrant's responsibility to ensure that each ensemble member is also aware of the Rules & Regulations.

Festival Inquiries: Contact the KWKMF Coordinator
danielle@kwkiwanismusicfestival.com

- 3.5 **Photo Consent Release** The KWKMF is a public event, and festival media persons may be taking photos during festival classes. Registrants will be given the option to consent to the use of their/their child's images for festival media channels (website, social media, posters). The KWKMF will not include people's names when publishing photos. If you are completing registration for an ensemble, it is the registrant's responsibility to ensure that each ensemble member is aware of the Photo Consent Release.
- 3.6 **Registration by Teachers** Teachers may register on their student's behalf. Please see 3.4 and 3.5 above regarding waivers and consent – it is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that their students' parents are aware of the Rules & Regulations and the Photo Consent Waiver.
- 3.7 **Eligibility** KWKMF is open to amateur musicians only. For the KWKMF, an amateur is a person whose primary income stream is in something other than the festival activity they are entering for.
- 3.8 **Age Limit** Competitive classes are open to participants up to the age of 28 as of January 1st, 2026. Adults aged 29+ are only eligible for Community (non-competitive) or Adult Amateur classes.
- 3.9 **Class Limits** Participants may only register once for each competitive class. Participants may register multiple times for the same Community (non-competitive) class, playing the appropriate number of pieces for each registration.
- 3.10 **Transaction & Late Fees** Lists of class prices are included in this Syllabus under each division and on the website. A parent or adult may register for several classes and multiple family members all at once. Classes may be saved and added later prior to paying for classes. **Registration will not be complete until the payment is made. A \$5 Transaction Fee per cart will be charged at the time of payment.** If a participant registers for additional classes after paying, the \$5 fee will be applied again each time a payment is made, therefore it is recommended that payment be done once all classes are entered. Registrations that are paid after the registration deadline are subject to a \$10 Late Fee.
- 3.11 **Cancellations & Refunds** Fees for cancelled classes may be refunded up to February 15th of the festival year (the \$5 Transaction Fee is non-refundable). **There will be NO REFUNDS after February 15th** if the participant chooses to refrain from participating in a festival class for which they have registered, except when a doctor's note is provided or in cases of bereavement.
- 3.12 **Class Changes** Participants may request to change a class registration to a different class up to February 15th. After this date there are no guarantees that a change request will be considered and will only be done at the discretion of the Festival Coordinator. Requests must be submitted by email to (danielle@kwkiwanismusicfestival.com).
- 3.13 **Class Verification by Teachers** It is recommended that teachers verify their students have registered for the correct classes. Parents/students should send their registration information to their teacher once completed to ensure they have entered the correct levels and class categories.

4. HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- 4.1 The 2026 KWKMF is planned to be an in-person live event with no virtual classes unless government protocol dictates otherwise.
- 4.2 All festival events will follow current government health and safety protocols, guidelines, and recommendations.
- 4.3 Any person entering a festival venue must abide by all health & safety measures required by the venue. Refusal to abide by venue regulations may result in disqualification from participating in the festival.
- 4.4 The festival cannot take responsibility for any person contracting COVID-19 or any other illness at a festival event. Persons enter festival venues at their own risk.
- 4.5 Should government guidelines require that the live festival be cancelled the KWKMF is prepared to host a virtual festival. Participants would be emailed instructions on how to submit recorded video performances,

and how to join their online classes. Participants would be given the option to receive a full refund if they do not wish to participate in a virtual festival.

5. FINANCIAL AID

- 5.1 Participants who meet any of the criteria below must contact the Festival Coordinator to confirm their eligibility prior to completing their registration (Danielle@kwkiwanismusicfestival.com). If approved bursaries will be applied to your festival invoice prior to payment. **Requests must be submitted by January 15th, 2026.**
- 5.2 **Accompaniment Allowance** Participants who register for four (4) or more classes that require a live accompanist are eligible to receive up to \$50 towards their costs. The KWKMF must be able to verify their accompanist's contact information and fees to qualify for a reduction in fees.
- 5.3 **Festival Bursary** Participants who are experiencing financial constraints that would prevent them from registering for the festival are welcome to write a letter to the festival committee explaining their situation and why they want to participate in the music festival, and which classes they would like to register for. Some or all their class fees may be waived at the discretion of the KWKMF Committee. Request for financial aid must be received by January 15th, 2026.
- 5.4 **Kiwanis Music Education Fund** Students who are currently receiving a bursary from the Kiwanis Music Education Fund will have their festival class fees waived. They will still be required to pay the \$5 registration fee.

6. SCHEDULING & COMMUNICATIONS

- 6.1 **2026 Festival Dates** The 2026 KWKMF will take place from April 7th to 14th for Large Ensemble classes and April 20th to 25th for Solo & Small Ensemble classes. Classes may be scheduled during daytime and evening hours. It is recommended that participants reserve all festival dates. Note: Large Ensemble Classes include School & Community groups. Solo Classes include solos, duets and trios within each division.
- 6.2 **Registration Dates** Online registration will be open from December 1st to January 25th. Late registration will be extended to February 1st subject to a \$10 late fee. Registrations will not be accepted after February 1st.
- 6.3 **Published Schedule** The schedule will be published online no later than March 1st for Ensemble Classes and no later than March 15th for Solo Classes. Class schedules will also be available by logging into your festival account.
- 6.4 **Schedule Changes** KWKMF reserves the right to change the published schedule at any time. KWKMF will attempt to notify the affected participants of major changes, however it is the responsibility of each participant, music teacher and accompanist to check the website for changes.
- 6.5 **Communication** The official mode of communication for festival announcements is through the festival website, as well as email communications. Participants should check the website regularly for festival updates. Participants should check their spam folders to ensure that KWKMF emails are being received. KWKMF has the right to email anyone who has an active festival account. Those who no longer wish to participate in the festival and receive email communications must deactivate their account.
- 6.6 **Schedule Conflicts** Participants who are registering for multiple classes and divisions are guaranteed to not be double-booked. However, the festival cannot guarantee that family members will not be booked at the same time.
- 6.7 **Personal Requests** The festival schedule will not be modified in response to requests made based on personal schedule conflicts. A personal schedule conflict could include travel, school, other competitions, other extra-curricular activities, etc.

7. GENERAL CLASS RULES & REGULATIONS

- 7.1 **Outlined below** are the general rules & regulations that apply to all festival divisions. Each division also has its own set of classes and guidelines that are included in each section of the Syllabus. Participants and their teachers are responsible to ensure they are registering for the appropriate classes and following the guidelines for each different class.
- 7.2 **Failure to follow the Rules & Regulations** will disqualify participants from receiving a mark or class placement. Participants may still receive written and verbal evaluations from the adjudicator.
- 7.3 **Syllabus Lists** Many classes require that repertoire be selected from a corresponding syllabus list. It is the participants' responsibility to consult the appropriate list. (See 2. Resources & Links)
- 7.4 **Class Levels** See Section 8 to see the eligibility for various class levels.
- 7.5 **Repertoire Level** Participants must perform repertoire that is listed under the corresponding grade level in the RCM, CC or LC syllabus and are not permitted to play pieces listed in a different grade level. **There are no exceptions**, even when a higher-level piece has been approved by RCM or CC for examination purposes.
- 7.6 **Syllabus Exceptions** Participants who wish to play a piece that is not on a syllabus list can do so if 1) they provide a letter of approval from the RCM or CC for examination purposes (excluding exceptions for higher level pieces), and/or 2) they submit a request for approval to the KWKMF Coordinator no later than January 31st, 2026. Requests will be forwarded to a designated committee to determine if the piece is appropriate for a particular grade level and class. ****Participants who are nominated to the OMFA Provincials should be aware that the OMFA Syllabus does not allow for repertoire exceptions.**
- 7.7 **Syllabus Conflicts** **1)** Where there are conflicts between newer and older editions of a syllabus students must follow the most recent syllabus and **2)** Where there are conflicts between the RCM and CC syllabi, participants may choose which syllabus to use. For example, if a piece is listed in the RCM syllabus as Level 6 but is listed as Level 7 in the CC syllabus the student may choose to enter the level that generally aligns with their other class entries. If there is a piece that appears in an older edition of a syllabus but is not listed in any level in the newest edition, then that piece is allowed.
- 7.8 **Repertoire Selections** A repertoire selection may only be played once during the festival, and participants cannot perform the same selection in different classes. Exception: Participants entering in the KWCO Concerto Competition may perform the same concerto selection in a Levelled class where the syllabus lists include concertos (this applies to strings and wind instruments).
- 7.9 **Repeats & Signs** Repeats signs should be ignored unless they significantly influence the structure of the piece or if otherwise indicated in the RCM or CC Syllabi. *Da Capo & Del Segno* signs should generally be observed. Participants should consult the appropriate RCM or CC Syllabi for guidance.
- 7.10 **Multi-movement Selections** One (1) Selection may consist of multiple movements. Participants must perform the number of movements specified for each class where applicable. Some KWKMF classes require a limit of two (2) movements, others require participants follow the RCM or CC syllabus requirements. Multiple movements should be played back-to-back with a brief pause in between.
- 7.11 **Time Limit** Total performance time must not exceed **twenty (20) minutes** in total for any class. In cases where multiple movements are to be performed, and the total performance time would exceed twenty (20) minutes participants may omit one (1) movement subject to the approval of the KWKMF Coordinator. Selected movements should be contrasting and should reflect the difficulty level of the class. The adjudicator may stop any performance that exceeds the 20-minute time limit.
- 7.12 **Accompaniment** Most classes in the Brass, Strings, Voice, Woodwinds and Piano Concerto divisions require that participants must perform with live accompaniment. Popular Voice classes may be accompanied by piano, guitar or ukulele. All other classes must be accompanied by piano. Participants should consult their division syllabus carefully regarding accompaniment rules. Performers are responsible

for making all arrangements with, and payment to their accompanist. Participants who register for four (4) or more accompanied classes are eligible for a \$50 Accompaniment Allowance (See 5. Financial Aid)

- 7.13 **Backing Tracks** For Popular Voice classes only, participants may choose an instrumental backing track that does not have back-up vocals, instead of live accompaniment. Performers are encouraged to use tracks with limited instrumental breaks (edited tracks/ reductions are allowed). Backing tracks must be provided as an MP3 file prior to the festival class (registrants will be contacted with instructions for submission). Backing tracks may be purchased from www.karaoke-version.com.
- 7.14 **Microphones** For Competitive Popular Voice classes at the Elementary Level and up participants must use a microphone. Microphones are optional for Beginner and Primary levels, and for all Community (non-competitive) classes.
- 7.15 **Memorization** is required for most competitive classes, with exceptions noted in the syllabus for each division (for example: Brass, Woodwinds, Sonatas for Strings and Etudes do not need to be memorized).
- 7.16 **Copyright** In accordance with the Canadian Copyright Act participants must provide the adjudicator with a legally purchased copy of the music for all selections, even when the piece is being performed by memory. Proof of purchase must be presented for digital copies. Music that is in the public domain, and therefore available to be downloaded for free, must have the IMSLP listing attached (visit imslp.org to print a screen shot). In etude, duet and ensemble classes, photocopied pages may be used by the performers long as the original score is also provided. **Participants who bring photocopied music without the original score or proof of purchase will be disqualified from receiving a class mark or placement.** Accepted resources may include:
- i. Hardcopy or book (purchased in-store).
 - ii. Digital download from IMSLP (International Music Score Library Project) showing the web address or copy of the listing from the IMSLP search page.
 - iii. Digital download from an online store with the participant's or parent's name listed as the legal owner (see copyright information at the bottom of the page).
 - iv. Digital download with proof of purchase in the form of a receipt. In cases where a teacher purchases the music on behalf of a student the teacher must provide a receipt to the student.
 - v. For Fiddle and Popular Voice classes where there is no sheet music available for purchase participants may provide a lead sheet or lyric sheet.

8. CLASS LEVELS & ELIGIBILITY

- 8.1 **Preparatory, Levels 1-10** Participants must enter a grade level that is higher than their most recent examination as of December 31st, 2025. For example, if a student passes a Level 3 exam in December, then they must enter classes at Level 4 or higher. If a student passes a Level 3 exam anytime after January 1, 2026, then they may still enter Level 3 classes.
- 8.2 **Open (Diploma) Level** Participants must enter at the Open Level if they have completed a Level 10 examination as of January 1st, 2026, or if they are currently performing repertoire at the ARCT, ACCM level or above, regardless of whether they have completed a Diploma level examination.
- 8.3 **Age Level Classes** For class levels that are based on age participants must enter the level based on their age as of January 1st, 2026.
- 8.4 **Ensemble Classes** Participants must enter the level based on the age of the oldest participant as of January 1st, 2026.
- 8.5 **Adult & Community (non-competitive) Classes** Community classes are available to participants of all ages and experience levels in each division and will be organized based on registration so that participants of similar ages and levels will be grouped together. Adult amateurs may enter any Community class. Adult-Child groups may enter Community Ensemble classes. (See page 10 for more details). Participants do not

need to follow any syllabus list and may perform any repertoire of their choosing that is appropriate for the genre of the class. In Popular Voice class participants may sing with or without a microphone and may use either live accompaniment or a backing track.

9. FESTIVAL CODE OF CONDUCT

- 9.1 **Contact with Adjudicators** Contacting an adjudicator (by participants, parents, teachers, or accompanists) to discuss festival related matters at any point during the festival year is strictly prohibited. Adjudicators are required to report such correspondence to the festival committee.
- 9.2 **Class Results** All decisions made by a festival adjudicator with respect to class outcome, awards, provincial delegation, and concert performer nominations are irrevocable. By registering for the festival, you agree to accept all the festival results as final, even if you disagree with them.
- 9.3 **Dress Code** It is recommended that participants wear attire appropriate for performing. Participants should avoid clothing with visible corporate logos, sports team names or logos, copyrighted images, celebrity names or images (living or dead), cartoon character images, or inappropriate messages or words (for example, profanity).
- 9.4 **Performance Introductions** Participants may give a brief introduction including their name, the title of their selection(s), and the name of the composer before performing.
- 9.5 **Respecting Spaces** Participants must use all venue facilities in a respectful manner and Health & Safety protocols in place at festival venues must be followed. Intentional destruction of property or failure to leave a space in clean condition will result in disqualification from all current and future festival events.
- 9.6 **Respecting People** All festival participants, teachers, parents, adjudicators, and volunteers are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of the people around them. Abusive or disrespectful behaviour will result in disqualification from all current and future festival events.
- 9.7 **Use of Pianos** Participants may not play a festival piano outside of their designated festival performance time.
- 9.8 **Use of Warm Up Rooms** Designated warm up rooms are for participants only. Younger children may be accompanied by one parent, guardian or teacher (additional family members must wait outside).
- 9.9 **Use of Devices & Recording** Phones and other devices must be Silenced or set to Do Not Disturb and during festival classes. Photography and recording in performance spaces is strictly prohibited except for KW Kiwanis Music Festival media persons and family members of the current performer. A designated seat will be available during classes for the current performer's family member to record. Photography and recording of other participants or the adjudicator workshops are not allowed.

FESTIVAL HONOURS, AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

CLASS EVALUATIONS, MARKS & PLACEMENTS

All participants will receive written and verbal evaluations from the adjudicator. In competitive classes participants will also receive a mark (out of 100) and 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place will be awarded based on class marks. Participants must earn a mark of 80 or higher to qualify for a class placement. Seals of Standard will be given based on marks: Gold for a mark of 90 and above, Silver for a mark of 85-89 and Bronze for a mark of 80-84. At the end of each class the adjudicator will announce the class placements but will not disclose the marks.

For School & Community Ensemble classes 1st, 2nd & 3rd placements will not be assigned, but the adjudicator will announce the Seals of Standard that are awarded to each ensemble.

CLASS RIBBONS

Participants who are awarded 1st, 2nd or 3rd Place will receive a designated Ribbon. All other participants (including those in Community classes) will receive a Participant Ribbon.

FINANCIAL AWARDS

Thanks to generous donations made by the Kiwanis Club of Kitchener-Waterloo, several long-time major donors, and many donations by individuals each year, the festival distributes between \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually to deserving festival participants. Individual awards may range from \$25 to \$500 and will be distributed throughout all divisions and class levels. Adjudicators are provided with a list of Awards available within their division and will have sole discretion in distributing the available Awards.

Award packages are presented on stage at the Finale Concert and recipients are invited participate in the award-recipient group photo. Recipients of the Allan Bush \$500 Top Awards, if invited, are expected to perform at the Finale Concert to receive their award. (Award recipients who do not pick up their award will have it mailed to them).

Award packages contain a cheque with the participants name on it and a letter indicating the who donated the award along with their contact information. Award recipients are encouraged to write a thank you letter to the donor of their award. Note: Expired award cheques are not reissued.

TROPHIES

The top performer in each division and in some cases a particular class will receive an annual trophy which will be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicators and presented at the Finale Concert. Trophy Winners will have their name and year inscribed on a large trophy that they will get to keep until next year's festival. Trophies must be returned to the festival Coordinator at the start of the 2026 festival. Winners will also be given a smaller version of the trophy that they may keep permanently. Trophies will be presented on stage at the Finale Concert. Students who are not able to attend must contact the Festival Coordinator to arrange to pick up the trophy.

HONOURS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Class Placements, Award Recipients, Trophy Winners, and Provincial Delegates will be announced on the KWKMF website at the conclusion of the festival.

FINALE CONCERT – FRIDAY MAY 8TH, 2026 AT 7:00PM

The Finale Concert program aims to celebrate the achievement of all festival participants by featuring excellent performances that represent as many divisions, levels, genres, and styles as possible.

Adjudicators nominate performances from their division and then a committee selects the program from the collective list of adjudicator-nominated performers. Performers are invited to perform at the finale concert by email and are expected to reply within 24 hours to confirm their availability.

In addition to the performances, the Finale Concert will include presentations to trophy winners, provincial delegates, concerto competition winners, and award winners.

Performers requiring piano accompaniment are welcome to hire their own accompanist or use the festival-hired accompanist for which there will be one rehearsal earlier in the day on the day of the Finale Concert.

The Finale Concert will be live streamed on the KWKMF website, and audience members must purchase a ticket to attend the live show. Honours recipients and performers will be granted free admission.

OMFA PROVINCIALS

The KW Kiwanis Music Festival is a feeder festival for the Ontario Music Festival Association Provincial Competition. At the end of each festival, adjudicators nominate up to three (3) delegates as well as alternates for each eligible division and level to compete at the OMFA Provincials. Nominees will be notified via email and will have 48 hours to accept or decline their nomination. If one or more of the nominees decline, then the next alternate on the list will be notified. Those who compete in the OMFA Provincials will receive a Provincial Delegate Certificate, which will be presented at the Finale Concert. (Those who do not attend the ceremony will have their Certificate mailed to them).

Students must receive a mark of 85 or higher and must be 6 years or older to qualify for a provincial nomination. Most OMFA classes require that participants perform two (2) selections, therefore adjudicators will give preference to participants who perform two (2) or more selections during the KWKMF when deciding who to nominate. In some cases the adjudicator may nominate a participant who only plays one (1) selection, but that participant should be prepared to perform a second or third piece as required by the OMFA if they accept the nomination.

OMFA rules stipulate that nominees must accept the first invitation that they receive from any festival. Therefore, if a participant enters multiple Ontario music festivals, they must accept the first festival nomination they receive and will not be permitted to accept an invitation at a later date on behalf of another festival (regardless of whether they declined the first invitation).

Specific information about OMFA Provincial requirements for each division can be found under each section of this syllabus.

The KW Kiwanis Music Festival is proud to host the 2026 OMFA Provincials in Kitchener-Waterloo during the week of June 8th to 13th. More information including registration and syllabus rules & regulations can be found on the [OMFA website](#).

ADULT & COMMUNITY (NON-COMPETITIVE) CLASSES

The KW Kiwanis Music Festival offers Community (non-competitive) and Adult Amateur Classes which are open to participants of all ages, levels & styles who wish to have a fun and educational experience without the pressure of competition. Classes are available in all divisions listed in this Syllabus. In Community classes students will receive written and verbal feedback from the adjudicator and a Participant's Ribbon as they would in any other class. Performances will not be assigned a mark, and since participants are not competing, they will not receive class placements.

Adult Amateurs classes are non-competitive and are available to participants who are 29 years of age or older. Adult-Child groups can register for any Community Ensemble class. Adult Amateurs may be nominated to participate in the OMFA Provincials where applicable. (Adults ages 29 or older are not eligible to enter in competitive classes).

Community classes will be organized based on registration so that participants of similar ages, levels and styles will be grouped together.

To register for a Community class participants should select the appropriate Discipline they wish to be involved in (for example: Voice or Strings) and then select "Community (non-competitive)" or "Adult Amateur" from the class options.

KW COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA CONCERTO COMPETITION

The KWCO Concerto Competition offers students the exciting opportunity to play in concert with the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Orchestra. Three (3) Winners and two (2) Runner-Ups will be chosen from this class to perform their Concerto on Saturday May 30th, 2026. The winners will also receive two (2) complimentary concert tickets.

ELIGIBILITY, RULES & REGULATIONS:

- Participants ages 12-18 as of January 1st, 2026, are eligible to enter. **Exception:** Previous Concerto Competition winners who have performed with the KWCO are not permitted to enter.
- Entry fee: \$40. Registrants must select "KWCO Concerto Competition" on the Syllabus page of the website.
- Concertos must be performed with live piano accompaniment; participants provide their own accompanist.
- Participants must perform one (1) movement of a Concerto.
- The score must be available on [IMSLP.org](https://www.imslp.org) (International Music Score Library Project) or provided to KWCO at their own expense.
- Repertoire selections must be approved by KWCO, which must be submitted by January 31, 2026.
- Potential winners must be available for rehearsals and the KWCO Concert on the following dates:
 - Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 7:00 pm during the month of May 2026
 - Dress Rehearsal: Saturday May 30th, 2026, at 9:30 am
 - Concert: Saturday May 30th, 2026, at 7:30 pm
- Winners are expected to dress in appropriate concert attire for the performance.

For more info about the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Orchestra and the 2025-2026 Concert Season visit [KWCO.org](https://www.kwco.org)

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ENSEMBLES PROGRAM

CHAMBER MUSIC CLASS SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Categories	Class Options	Class Fees
Community & Adult (non-competitive) Elementary (Levels 1-5) Junior (Levels 6-9) Senior (Levels 10 & above)	Chamber Strings Chamber Winds Chamber Mixed Instruments	20 Minute Workshop 30 Minute Workshop	\$65 \$95

KIWANIS PLUGGED IN: JAZZ, ROCK & POP BANDS CLASS SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Categories	Class Options	Class Fees
Community & Adult (non-competitive) Ages 10 & under Ages 12 & under Ages 14 & under Ages 16 & under Ages 18 & under Ages 19 & above	Jazz Combo Rock/Pop Band	20 Minute Workshop 30 Minute Workshop	\$65 \$95

SMALL ENSEMBLES CLASS SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Categories	Class Options	Class Fees
Community (non-competitive) Ages 10 & under Ages 12 & under Ages 14 & under Ages 16 & under Ages 18 & under Ages 19 & above	Guitar/Ukulele Ensemble Percussion Ensemble Wind Ensemble Strings Ensemble Chamber Choir	20 Minute Workshop 30 Minute Workshop	\$65 \$95

LARGE ENSEMBLES CLASS SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Categories	Class Options	Class Fees
Community (non-competitive) Elementary School – Gr. 3 & under (Choirs) Elementary School – Gr. 6 & under (Choirs/Orchestras) Elementary School – Gr. 8 & under Secondary School - Grades 9-10 Secondary School - Grades 9-12 Secondary School - Grades 11-12 Kids Community (Ages 14 & under) (Choirs/Orchestras) Youth Community (Ages 16 & under) Teen Community (Ages 18 & under) Adult Community (Ages 19 & over)	Concert/Wind Band Stage/Jazz Band String Orchestra Symphony Orchestra Concert Choir	20 Minute Workshop 30 Minute Workshop	\$85 \$125

Festival Inquiries: Contact the KWKMF Coordinator

danielle@kwkiwanimusicfestival.com

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ENSEMBLE DESCRIPTIONS

Chamber Music Chamber Music ensembles may include 3-5 players, with one player per part, all the parts having equal importance, and should not have a conductor. Members can include any combination of orchestral instruments including strings, woodwinds, brass, harp, guitar, recorder, and/or percussion, with or without piano and/or one vocal part. **Levels:** Chamber Ensembles should enter based on the highest RCM level represented within the group. For example, if some of the ensemble members are playing at a grade 5 level, but one or more members are playing at a grade 7 level then the ensemble must register for the Junior (Levels 6-9) class.

****Note:** Duet & Trio class options are available within each instrument division (example: Piano Duets should register in the Piano division). Trios consisting of the same instrument family (ex. 3 brass instruments) should register under their instruments' division, whereas a Trio consisting of mixed instrumentation should register in the Chamber Music division (ex. a trio with violin, piano and flute). Piano and Vocal quartets should register in those divisions.

Jazz/Pop/Rock Bands May include 3-10 players and may include vocals and a mix of acoustic and electric instruments. Microphones will be available for vocals and acoustic instruments. A basic drum kit set up will be provided. A detailed list of available sound gear will be provided to participants in advance (any additional gear that is required must be brought by the participants). **Class Levels:** Bands should enter the age group that represents the majority of the ensemble members. If there is an equal number of members in different age groups participants should enter the higher age level.

Small Ensembles May include 4-15 ensemble members, may have multiple players per part, and can be either self-led or conductor led. Small Ensemble Options include *Guitar/Ukulele Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Strings Ensemble and Chamber Choir*. **Class Levels:** Small Ensembles should enter the age group that represents the majority of the ensemble members. If there is an equal number of members in different age groups participants should enter the higher age level.

Large Ensembles Includes groups with 15 or more ensemble members (11 or more for Stage Bands), with multiple players per part and is conductor-led. Large Ensemble Options include *Concert Band, Stage/Jazz Band, String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir*. **Class Levels:** Large Ensembles should enter at the level that represents the majority of the ensemble members.

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

20 Minute Workshop Ensembles will have a total of 20 minutes on stage including both their performance time and the adjudicator's workshop. Ensembles may perform one (1) or two (2) selections with a recommended performance time limit of 6 minutes to allow time for the workshop. If an ensemble chooses to play two (2) selections the adjudicator will assign one mark which is the average for both pieces. No preference will be given based on how many pieces the participant plays.

30 Minute Workshop Ensembles will have a total of 30 minutes on stage including both their performance time and the adjudicator's workshop. Ensembles must play two (2) selections, with a recommended performance time limit of 10 minutes to allow time for the workshop.

ENSEMBLE RULES & REGULATIONS

Failure to follow the Rules & Regulations below will disqualify participants from receiving a mark or class placement. Participants may still receive written and verbal evaluations from the adjudicator.

**Participants should consult the 7. General Rules & Regulations and 8. Class Levels & Eligibility sections of the Syllabus.

Multi-movement Selections One (1) selection may consist of multiple movements. No more than two (2) contrasting movements are permitted to be played for a selection.

Scores & Sheet Music Participants must provide the adjudicator with a legally purchased copy of the music for all selections (a purchase receipt or IMSLP listing must be presented for digital copies), even when the piece is being performed by memory. For Jazz/Pop/Rock bands may provide a lead/lyric sheet if there is no sheet music available. Refer to section 7.14 of the Rules, Regulations & Guidelines for more information about Copyright.

Arrangements, Cuts & Improvisation Jazz/Pop/Rock bands may perform their own arrangements. Vocal parts should only make cuts for repeated choruses (all verses should be included). Cuts to extended instrumental sections are allowed for Rock and Pop bands. Jazz Combos must include the head at the start and end of their performance. Improvised solos are permitted.

Memorization is not required for Ensemble classes.

Class Awards Participants in competitive ensemble classes will be awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze Seal of Standard based on their marks: Gold for a mark of 90 and above, Silver for a mark of 85-89, and Bronze for a mark of 80-84. Marks will be recorded on comment sheets but will not be shared with the class, and no class placements (I.e., 1st, 2nd, 3rd) will be announced.

General Rules & Regulations Entrants must ensure they are familiar with General Rules & Regulations (page 5-6).

OMFA PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Participants should consult the OMFA Syllabus guidelines (www.omfa.ca) if they are interested in participating in the OMFA Provincials, as the OMFA requirements may differ from the KW Kiwanis Music Festival Syllabus. At least one (1) selection must have received a mark of 85 at the local festival.

Chamber Music Two (2) selections

Small Ensembles One (1) or Two (2) selections may be performed.

Large Ensembles Two (2) selections must be performed.

BRASS PROGRAM

BRASS SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fee	Class Options	Class Requirements
Community (non-competitive) Levels Prep, 1-4 Levels 5-7 Levels 8-10 Open (Diploma)	\$32/\$47 \$32/\$47 \$36/\$51 \$40/\$55 \$44/\$59	Classical Solo Etudes Classical Recital *Add \$15 for Recital classes	1 RCM or CC Repertoire selection 2 contrasting Etudes/Studies 2 selections from different Repertoire syllabus lists (where applicable)
Community (non-competitive) Primary (Ages 10 & under) Elementary (Ages 11-12) Junior (Ages 13-14) Intermediate (Ages 15-16) Senior (Ages 17-18) Advanced (Ages 19-28)	\$32/\$47 \$32/\$47 \$36/\$51 \$36/\$51 \$40/\$55 \$44/\$59 \$44/\$59	Brass Concerto Classical Duet/Trio Popular Solo Popular Duet/Trio Popular Recital *Add \$15 for Recital classes	1 selection, 1 or 2 movements 2 or 3 Performers, 1 selection 1 Performer, 1 selection 2 or 3 Performers, 1 selection 1 Performer, 2 contrasting selections

BRASS CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Brass Solo & Recital Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection for Solo classes, or two (2) selections for Recital classes from the appropriate grade level. For Recital classes selections must be from two different Repertoire lists in their instrument's RCM or CC Syllabus.

**Teacher's Choice selections are permitted for Euphonium, French Horn, Trombone and Tuba (using the RCM lists as a guide for determining the appropriate level).

Etude Classes Participants must perform two (2) contrasting Etudes/Studies from the appropriate grade level. Where the syllabus indicates "Group 1", and "Group 2" participants should select one (1) Etude from each Group.

Brass Concerto Participants may perform one (1) or two (2) consecutive movements of a concerto. Repertoire selections do not need to be from a syllabus list. Participants must enter the level based on their age as of January 1st, 2026, and should select the grade level that they are currently playing at.

Popular Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection for **Solo** classes or two (2) selections for **Recital** classes. Popular selections should be covers from commercial artists in any of the following genres: Pop, Folk, R&B, Soul, Rock, Alternative, Indie, Jazz or Country. Songs listed in the RCM or CC syllabus are not permitted. Selections may include improvised sections. Popular selections must be performed with either live accompaniment or an instrumental backing track. For Popular classes participants must enter the level based on their age as of January 1st, 2026.

Duets & Trios Participants must perform one (1) selection in the appropriate genre and must enter the age level of the oldest participant based on their age as of January 1st, 2026, for competitive classes.

Community (non-competitive) Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection for Solo classes and must perform two (2) selections for Recital classes in the appropriate genre. Community (non-competitive) classes will be organized based on registration so that participants of similar ages and levels will be grouped together. Adults ages 29 and above must enter at the Community (non-competitive) level, and Adult & Child groups may enter Community (non-competitive) ensemble classes.

BRASS RULES & REGULATIONS

Failure to follow the Rules & Regulations below will disqualify participants from receiving a mark or class placement. Participants may still receive written and verbal evaluations from the adjudicator. **Participants should consult the 7. General Rules & Regulations and 8. Class Levels & Eligibility sections of the Syllabus.

Accompaniment Participants must perform with live piano accompaniment for all **Brass Solo & Brass Recital** classes (except where the syllabus indicates that a piece is “Unaccompanied”) and performers must make their own arrangements for an accompanist.

Backing Tracks For **Popular classes only**, participants must use either live accompaniment (piano or guitar/ukulele) or an instrumental backing track that does not have back-up vocals. Performers are encouraged to use tracks with limited instrumental breaks (edited tracks/ reductions are allowed). Backing tracks must be provided as an MP3 file prior to the festival class (registrants will be contacted with instructions for submission).

Duet & Trio Accompaniment Piano accompaniment is not required but should be included if indicated in the score. Ensembles where the piano part plays an equal role, and the pianist is a class participant should enter in the “Chamber Music” division.

Multi-movement Selections One (1) selection may consist of multiple movements, where specified in the RCM or CC Syllabus (ex. Sonatas & Concertos). Participants must perform the movement(s) specified in the syllabus where applicable. For example, the syllabus may require that only one movement of a piece be played, or that two or more specific movements be played.

Time Limit Total performance time must not exceed **twenty (20) minutes** in total for any class.

Sheet Music Participants must provide the adjudicator with a legally purchased copy of the music for all selections (a purchase receipt or IMSLP listing must be presented for digital copies), even when the piece is being performed by memory. Refer to section 7.14 of the Rules, Regulations & Guidelines for more information about Copyright.

Memorization is not required for Brass classes.

OMFA PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Participants should consult the OMFA Syllabus guidelines (www.omfa.ca) if they are interested in participating in the OMFA Provincials, as the OMFA requirements may differ from the KW Kiwanis Music Festival Syllabus. At least one (1) selection must have received a mark of 85 at the local festival.

Classical Brass Solo Two (2) selections must be performed (optional: three (3) selections for Open level). For trumpet entries selections must be in the current RCM or CC Syllabi (no exceptions). For all other brass unlisted selections will be accepted if verified to be at an appropriate level.

Popular Brass Solo, Duets & Trios One (1) selection must be performed.

Brass Concertos One (1) selection must be performed, which may include one (1) or two (2) consecutive movements.

BRASS RESOURCES

[CC Classical Trumpet Syllabus](#)

[RCM Horn Syllabus, 2025 Edition](#)

[RCM Euphonium Syllabus, 2003 Edition](#)

[RCM Trombone Syllabus, 2003 Edition](#)

[RCM Trumpet Syllabus, 2013 Edition](#)

[RCM Tuba Syllabus, 2003 Edition](#)

Festival Inquiries: Contact the KWKMF Coordinator
danielle@kwkiwanimusicfestival.com

CHINESE INSTRUMENTS PROGRAM

CHINESE INSTRUMENTS SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fee	Class Options	Class Requirements
Community (non-competitive) Beginner (Ages 8 & under) Primary (Ages 9-10) Elementary (Ages 11-12) Junior (Ages 13-14) Intermediate (Ages 15-16) Senior (Ages 17-18) Advanced (Ages 19-28)	\$32/\$47 \$32/\$47 \$32/\$47 \$36/\$51 \$36/\$51 \$40/\$55 \$44/\$59 \$44/\$59	Bowed Instrument Solo Plucked Instrument Solo Bowed Instrument Recital Plucked Instrument Recital *Add \$15 for Recital classes Chinese Duets & Trios	1 selection 1 selection 2 selections 2 selections 1 selection
Community (non-competitive) Ages 10 & under Ages 12 & under Ages 14 & under Ages 16 & under Ages 18 & under Ages 19 & above	\$65 \$95	Chinese Small Ensembles: 20 Minute Workshop - \$65 30 Minute Workshop - \$95	1 or 2 selections 2 selections

CHINESE INSTRUMENTS CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Chinese Instrument Solo & Recital Participants must perform one (1) selection for Solo classes or two (2) selections for Recital classes. Participants may refer to the Central Conservatory or Music, Chinese Musicians Association or the Shanghai Conservatory of Music when selecting repertoire. Teacher’s Choice selections are permitted.

Duets & Trios Participants must perform one (1) selection and must enter the age level of the oldest participant based on their age as of January 1st, 2026, for competitive classes.

Small Ensembles Small Ensembles may consist of 4-15 members playing traditional Chinese Instruments. **Class Levels:** Small Ensembles should enter the age group that represents the majority of the ensemble members. If there is an equal number of members in different age groups participants should enter the higher age level.

**Please refer to the Ensembles section of the Syllabus on pages 12-14 for more information about Small Ensemble classes.

Community (non-competitive) Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection for Solo classes and must perform two (2) selections for Recital classes. Participants will receive a written and verbal adjudication, as well as a Participation Ribbon, but will not be given marks or class placements and are not eligible for financial awards or OMFA Provincials recommendations. Community (non-competitive) classes will be organized based on registration so that participants of similar ages and levels will be grouped together. Adults ages 29 and above must enter at the Community (non-competitive) level, and Adult & Child groups may enter Community (non-competitive) ensemble classes.

CHINESE INSTRUMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

Failure to follow the Rules & Regulations below will disqualify participants from receiving a mark or class placement. Participants may still receive written and verbal evaluations from the adjudicator.

**Participants should consult the 7. General Rules & Regulations and 8. Class Levels & Eligibility sections of the Syllabus.

Age Levels Participants must enter the level based on their age as of January 1st, 2026. For ensemble classes participants must enter the age level of the oldest participant based on their age as of January 1st, 2026, for competitive classes.

Community & Adult Amateur

Repertoire Selections Participants cannot perform the same selection in different classes (for example, if a participant enters both a Chinese Instrument Solo class and a Chinese Instrument Recital class then they must perform 3 different selections).

Accompaniment Participants may perform with live accompaniment where appropriate. Accompaniment instruments may include dulcimer, percussion, guzheng or piano. Pianos are available at festival venues; all other accompaniment instruments must be brought by the performer.

Time Limit Total performance time must not exceed **twenty (20) minutes** in total for any class.

Sheet Music Participants must provide the adjudicator with a legally purchased copy of the music for all selections (a purchase receipt or IMSLP listing must be presented for digital copies), even when the piece is being performed by memory. Refer to section 7.14 of the Rules, Regulations & Guidelines for more information about Copyright.

Memorization is not required for Chinese Instrument classes.

OMFA PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Participants should consult the OMFA Syllabus guidelines (www.omfa.ca) if they are interested in participating in the OMFA Provincials, as the OMFA requirements may differ from the KW Kiwanis Music Festival Syllabus. At least one (1) selection must have received a mark of 85 at the local festival.

Chinese Instrument Solo Two (2) selections must be performed.

Chinese Instruments Duets & Trios One (1) selection must be performed.

Chinese Small Ensembles One (1) selection must be performed.

CHINESE INSTRUMENT RESOURCES

[Central Conservatory of Music](#)

[Chinese Musicians Association](#)

[Shanghai Conservatory of Music Syllabus](#)

Festival Inquiries: Contact the KWKMF Coordinator
danielle@kwkiwanimusicfestival.com

COMPOSITION PROGRAM

COMPOSITION SYLLABUS

Class Level	Class Fee	Class Options
Community (non-competitive) & Adult	\$32	Solo Composition (for 1 instrument) Ensemble Composition (for 2 or more instruments)
Primary (Ages 10 & under)	\$32	
Elementary (Ages 11-12)	\$36	
Junior (Ages 13-14)	\$36	
Intermediate (Ages 15-16)	\$40	
Senior (Ages 17-18)	\$44	
Advanced (Ages 19-28)	\$44	

COMPOSITION RULES & REGULATIONS

Failure to follow the Rules & Regulations below will disqualify participants from receiving a mark or class placement. Participants may still receive written and verbal evaluations from the adjudicator.

**Participants should consult the 7. General Rules & Regulations and 8. Class Levels & Eligibility sections of the Syllabus.

Composition Guidelines A composition is considered an original piece of music written and notated by the participant. Any instrumentation is acceptable. The notation must be in standard notation or a type of notation that exists within the spirit of the varied idioms typical of composition. Charts are not considered a suitable form of notation for this class (see Singer-Songwriter classes in the Popular Voice division if you are composing original songs in a popular idiom).

Improvised Elements As a general guideline, no more than 10% of the composition should be improvised if the composition includes a portion of live improvisation.

Performance/Recordings Participants may choose to either perform their composition live or may provide an audio file in MP3 format (see below regarding Submission Requirements). A piano will be available for composition classes. Live performances may include up to 4 performers (to be arranged for and organized by the participant), and performers must bring their own instruments and music stands. Classes will not be evaluated based on the skill level of the performers and will be evaluated solely on the merits of the composition itself.

Multiple Registrations Participants may register multiple times for a composition class and must submit one (1) composition per registration. Those who register multiple times will receive a mark and written evaluation for each piece but will only be eligible for one class placement. For example, if a student submits two (2) compositions and receives the two (2) highest marks in the class, they will only be awarded 1st Place (2nd Place will be awarded to another participant with the next highest mark).

Submission Requirements Participants must submit a PDF of their composition (handwritten or computer-generated) as well as an audio file by March 31st of the year of the festival. Please mark this deadline on your calendars as soon as you have completed your registration. A reminder email with instructions will also be sent to registrants.

FIDDLE PROGRAM

FIDDLE SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fees	Class Options	Class Requirements
Community/Adult (non-competitive)	\$32/\$47	Fiddle Solo	1 selection
Beginner (Ages 8 & under)	\$32/\$47	Fiddle Recital	2 selections
Primary (Ages 9-10)	\$32/\$47	*Add \$15 for Recital classes	1 selection
Elementary (Ages 11-12)	\$36/\$51		
Junior (Ages 13-14)	\$36/\$51	Fiddle Duets & Trios	1 selection
Intermediate (Ages 15-16)	\$40/\$55		
Senior (Ages 17-18)	\$44/\$59		
Advanced (Ages 19-28)	\$44/\$59		
Community (non-competitive)		Small Ensembles:	
Ages 10 & under	\$65	20 Minute Workshop	1 or 2 selections
Ages 12 & under	\$95	30 Minute Workshop	2 selections
Ages 14 & under			
Ages 16 & under			
Ages 18 & under			
Ages 19 & above			

FIDDLE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Repertoire must represent Canadian fiddling styles and place emphasis on traditional fiddling elements. Recognized fiddle styles include but are not limited to: **Country, Old Time, Cape Breton, Swing, Métis, Bluegrass, French Canadian** etc. Competitors may incorporate improvisation, as long as the original meter and core structure of the piece are preserved.

****Styles that are not permitted include:** classical, jazz, blues, trick fiddling, show tunes and other non-traditional fiddle styles.

Fiddle Solo Participants must perform one (1) selection.

Fiddle Recital Participants must perform two (2) two contrasting selections and **must progress from one piece to another without pause**. Contrasting tunes can be played in one style (e.g. contrasting Old-Time tunes) or in a variety of styles (e.g. Bluegrass, Cape Breton jig, Old-Time Waltz).

Duets & Trios Participants must perform one (1) selection and must enter the age level of the oldest participant based on their age as of January 1st, 2026, for competitive classes.

Small Ensembles Small Ensembles may consist of 4-15 members playing traditional Celtic instruments (ex. Mandolin, Banjo, Guitar, Whistle/Flute, Hand Drums etc). **Class Levels:** Small Ensembles should enter the age group that represents the majority of the ensemble members. If there is an equal number of members in different age groups participants should enter the higher age level.

****Please refer to the Ensembles section of the Syllabus on pages 12-14 for more information about Small Ensemble classes.**

Community & Adult Amateur Classes (non-competitive) Participants must perform one (1) selection for Solo classes and must perform two (2) selections for Recital classes. Participants will receive a written and verbal adjudication, as well as a Participation Ribbon, but will not be given marks or class placements and are not eligible for financial awards. Community & Adult classes will be organized based on registration so that participants of similar ages and levels will be grouped together. Adults ages 29 and above must enter at the Community (non-competitive) level, and Adult & Child groups may enter Community (non-competitive) ensemble classes.

FIDDLE RULES & REGULATIONS

Failure to follow the Rules & Regulations below will disqualify participants from receiving a mark or class placement. Participants may still receive written and verbal evaluations from the adjudicator.

**Participants should consult the 7. General Rules & Regulations and 8. Class Levels & Eligibility sections of the Syllabus.

Repertoire Selections Participants cannot perform the same selection in different classes (for example, if a participant enters both a Fiddle Solo class and a Fiddle Recital class then they must perform 3 different selections).

Accompaniment Participants may perform with live accompaniment where appropriate. Accompaniment instruments may include any traditional Celtic instrument. Pianos are available at festival venues; all other accompaniment instruments must be brought by the performer. Accompanists may choose to chord only.

Time Limit Total performance time must not exceed **twenty (20) minutes** in total for any class.

Sheet Music Participants must provide the adjudicator with a lead sheet or transcription of the melody line (from a big book or handwritten) and must indicate the title and composer.

Memorization is required for competitive Fiddle classes (it is not required for Community classes).

OMFA PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Participants should consult the OMFA Syllabus guidelines (www.omfa.ca) if they are interested in participating in the OMFA Provincials, as the OMFA requirements may differ from the KW Kiwanis Music Festival Syllabus. At least one (1) selection must have received a mark of 85 at the local festival.

Fiddle Solo Two (2) selections must be performed.

Fiddle Duets & Trios One (1) selection must be performed.

Fiddle Small Ensembles One (1) selection must be performed.

GUITAR PROGRAM

GUITAR SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fee	Class Options	Class Requirements
Community (non-competitive) Adult Amateur Levels 1-4	\$32/\$47 \$32/\$47 \$32/\$47	Classical Solo Etudes	1 RCM or CC Repertoire selection 1 or 2 Etudes as applicable (see below)
Levels 5-7 Levels 8-10 Open (Diploma)	\$36/\$51 \$40/\$55 \$44/\$59	Classical Recital *Add \$15 for Recital classes	2 selections from different Repertoire lists (where applicable)
Community (non-competitive) Beginner (Ages 8 & under) Primary (Ages 9-10) Elementary (Ages 11-12) Junior (Ages 13-14) Intermediate (Ages 15-16) Senior (Ages 17-18) Advanced (Ages 19-28)	\$32/\$47 \$32/\$47 \$32/\$47 \$36/\$51 \$36/\$51 \$40/\$55 \$44/\$59 \$44/\$59	Classical Duets & Trios Popular Solo Popular Duets & Trios Popular Recital *Add \$15 for Recital classes	2-3 Performers, 1 selection 1 Performer, 1 selection 2-3 Performers, 1 selection 1 Performer, 2 contrasting selections

GUITAR CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Guitar Solo Participants must perform one (1) selection from the appropriate grade level and any Repertoire list in either the *RCM Classical Guitar Syllabus 2018 Edition* or the *CC Classical Guitar Syllabus*.

Guitar Recital Participants must perform two contrasting (2) selections from the appropriate grade level and where applicable from different Repertoire lists (Level 2 and above) in the RCM or CC Syllabus. For example, if the grade level includes List A & List B the participant should play one (1) selection from each list. If there is a List C or D, then the participant may choose which two (2) Lists to select from.

Etude Classes Participants must perform one (1) Etude for Preparatory and Level 1 classes, and two (2) contrasting Etudes/Studies for Levels 2-10, from the appropriate grade level.

Popular Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection for **Solo** classes or two (2) selections for **Recital** classes. Popular selections should be covers from commercial artists in any of the following genres: Pop, Folk, R&B, Soul, Rock, Alternative, Indie, Jazz or Country. Songs listed in the RCM or CC syllabus are not permitted. Popular selections must be performed with either live accompaniment or an instrumental backing track. For Popular classes participants must enter the level based on their age as of January 1st, 2026.

Duets & Trios Participants must perform one (1) selection in the appropriate genre and must enter the age level of the oldest participant based on their age as of January 1st, 2026, for competitive classes.

Community (non-competitive) & Adult Amateur Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection for Solo classes and must perform two (2) selections for Recital classes in the appropriate genre. Participants will receive a written and verbal adjudication, as well as a Participation Ribbon, but will not be given marks or class placements and are not eligible for financial awards. Community (non-competitive) classes will be organized based on registration so that participants of similar ages and levels will be grouped together. Adults ages 29 and above must enter at the Adult Amateur level, and Adult & Child groups may enter Community (non-competitive) ensemble classes.

Festival Inquiries: Contact the KWKMF Coordinator
danielle@kwkiwanimusicfestival.com

GUITAR RULES & REGULATIONS

Failure to follow the Rules & Regulations below will disqualify participants from receiving a mark or class placement. Participants may still receive written and verbal evaluations from the adjudicator.

**Participants should consult the 7. General Rules & Regulations and 8. Class Levels & Eligibility sections of the Syllabus.

Repertoire Selections Participants cannot perform the same selection in different classes (for example, if a participant enters both a Guitar Solo class and a Guitar Recital class then they must perform 3 different selections).

Multi-movement Selections One (1) selection may consist of multiple movements, where specified in the RCM or CC Syllabus (ex. Sonatas & Concertos). Participants must perform the movement(s) specified in the syllabus where applicable. For example, the syllabus may require that only one movement of a piece be played, or that two or more specific movements be played.

Time Limit Total performance time must not exceed **twenty (20) minutes** in total for any class. In cases where multiple movements are to be performed, and the total performance time would exceed twenty (20) minutes participants may omit one (1) movement subject to the approval of the KWKMF Coordinator. Selected movements should be contrasting and should reflect the difficulty level of the class.

Sheet Music Participants must provide the adjudicator with a legally purchased copy of the music for all selections (a purchase receipt or IMSLP listing must be presented for digital copies), even when the piece is being performed by memory. Refer to section 7.14 of the Rules, Regulations & Guidelines for more information about Copyright.

Memorization is required for all competitive guitar classes, except for Etude classes.

OMFA PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Participants should consult the OMFA Syllabus guidelines (www.omfa.ca) if they are interested in participating in the OMFA Provincials, as the OMFA requirements may differ from the KW Kiwanis Music Festival Syllabus. At least one (1) selection must have received a mark of 85 at the local festival.

Classical Guitar Solo Two (2) selections must be performed (optional: three (3) selections for Open level), and selections must be in the current RCM or CC Syllabi (no exceptions). One (1) selection may be an etude.

Popular Guitar & Guitar Duets & Trios One (1) selection must be performed.

GUITAR RESOURCES

[CC Classical Guitar Syllabus](#)

[CC Contemporary Idioms Guitar Syllabus](#)

[RCM Classical Guitar Syllabus, 2018 Edition](#)

PIANO PROGRAM

PIANO SOLO CLASSES

ELEMENTARY PIANO SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Options	Class Requirements	Class Fee
Beginner/Preparatory A	1 st Entry 2 nd Entry	2 selections per class, Memorization required	\$32
Novice/Preparatory B	1 st Entry 2 nd Entry	1 Selection per class, Memorization required	\$32
Level 1 Level 2	List A List B List C Etude Canadian *Recital	1 Selection per class, Memorization required (unless otherwise noted) 1 Etude, memorization not required * 2 Selections, Max. 6 Minutes total	\$32 \$47

JUNIOR PIANO SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Options	Class Requirements	Class Fee
Level 3 Level 4 Level 5	List A List B List C Etude Canadian *Recital	1 Selection per class, Memorization required (unless otherwise noted) 2 Etudes, memorization not required * 2 Selections, Max. 6 Minutes total	\$36 \$51

INTERMEDIATE PIANO SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Options	Class Requirements	Class Fee
Level 6 Level 7 Level 8	List A List B List C List D (Level 8 only) Etude Canadian *Recital	1 Selection per class, Memorization required (unless otherwise noted) 2 Etudes, memorization not required * 2 Selections, Max. 10 Minutes total	\$40 \$55

Festival Inquiries: Contact the KWKM Coordinator
danielle@kwkiwanimusicfestival.com

SENIOR PIANO SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Options	Class Requirements	Class Fee
Level 9 Level 10 Open (Diploma)	List A List B List C List D List E (no Level 9) List F (Diploma only) Etude (Level 9 & 10) Canadian Chopin *Recital	1 Selection per class, Memorization required (unless otherwise noted) 2 Etudes, memorization not required * 2 Selections, Max. 15 Min/20 Min Diploma	\$44 \$59

CONTEMPORARY & POPULAR PIANO SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Options	Class Requirements	Class Fee
Beginner (Ages 8 & under) Primary (Ages 9-10) Elementary (Ages 11-12)	Contemporary Solo Popular Solo	1 Selection per registration, memorization required.	\$32/\$47 \$32/\$47 \$32/\$47
Junior (Ages 13-14) Intermediate (Ages 15-16) Senior (Ages 17-18) Advanced (Ages 19-28)	Contemporary Recital Popular Recital (*add \$15 to class fees for Recital Classes)	2 Selections per registration, memorization required.	\$36/\$51 \$36/\$51 \$40/\$55 \$44/\$59 \$44/\$59

COMMUNITY & ADULT (NON-COMPETITIVE) PIANO SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Options	Class Requirements	Class Fee
Children (Ages 10 & under) Youth (Ages 11-14) Teens (Ages 15-18)	Piano Solo Piano Recital	1 selection 2 selections Memorization is not required	\$36 \$51
Adult Beginner (1-2 Years of Study) Adult Intermediate (2-5 Years) Adult Advanced (5+ Years)			

CLASSICAL PIANO SOLO CLASS LEVELS

Beginner/Preparatory A As a general guideline Beginner/Preparatory A is recommended for students who are in their first 1-2 years of study and are playing repertoire that reflects the level of the RCM Preparatory A list.

Novice/Preparatory B As a general guideline Novice/Preparatory B is recommended for students who have had 2 or more years of study and are playing repertoire that reflects the level of the RCM Preparatory B list.

Levels 1-10 Participants must enter a grade level that is higher than their most recent examination as of December 31st, 2025. For example, if a student passes a Level 3 exam in December, then they must enter classes at Level 4 or higher. If a student passes a Level 3 exam anytime after January 1, 2026, then they may still enter Level 3 classes.

Festival Inquiries: Contact the KWKMF Coordinator
danielle@kwkiwanimusicfestival.com

Age Levels Participants must enter the age level based on their age as of January 1st, 2026, for competitive classes.

*For all other Class Levels participants should refer to section 8. Class Levels & Eligibility.

PIANO SOLO CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Beginner/Novice Participants in the Beginner classes must perform two (2) selections (since the pieces are typically short at this level), and for the Novice classes participants must perform one (1) selection.

Participants should register for “**1st Entry**” if they wish to participate in one (1) class, and both “**1st Entry**” AND “**2nd Entry**” if they wish to participate in two (2) classes.

Repertoire may be chosen from any Method Book, or the Preparatory A & B Syllabus lists, and “Teacher’s Choice” selections are permitted in any Beginner or Novice Level class. Teachers should consult the RCM Preparatory Repertoire lists to ensure the piece is appropriate for the chosen level.

List Classes (List A, List B, etc.) Participants must perform one (1) Selection from the appropriate grade level and list from the *RCM Piano Syllabus 2022 Edition*, *CC Classical Piano Syllabus 2018 Edition* or *Loud and Clear: A Guide to Levelled Piano Music by Women Composers*.

Etude Classes Levels 1-2: Participants must perform one (1) selection from the Etude list in the *RCM Piano Syllabus*. Levels 3-10: Participants must perform two (2) selections (as required by the RCM Piano Syllabus). Participants may replace one etude with a work included in any edition of the *RCM Popular Selection List*. and one selection. Etudes do not need to be memorized. (This does not include Open (Diploma): List F (Concert Etudes) where one (1) selection from the syllabus must be played by memory).

Contemporary Classes Contemporary selections must be written after 1960 (inclusive), and do not have to be included in any published syllabus (Teacher/Student choice). Contemporary music is defined as a wide range of compositions that have both classical and modern elements. Repertoire that is included in the RCM or CC Classical Syllabi, or Popular repertoire (see definition below) is not permitted. Selections from the *CC Contemporary Idioms Piano Lists* are permitted (but not required). Participants may also refer to the [OMFA Contemporary Piano Guidelines](#) for a list of suggested resources.

Canadian Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection from any syllabus list at the appropriate grade level that is written by a Canadian composer.

Chopin Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection by Chopin from any syllabus list at the appropriate grade level. Those who enter a **Chopin Class** will be eligible to win the **Chopin Senior Piano Trophy** and Award (as decided by the Senior Piano Adjudicator). Participants may play Chopin in a List C class but will not be eligible to win the Trophy.

Popular Piano Classes Popular selections should be covers from commercial artists in any of the following genres: Pop, Folk, R&B, Soul, Rock, Alternative, Indie, Jazz or Country. Selections from the *RCM Popular Piano Lists* are permitted (but not required). Participants must enter the level based on their age as of January 1st, 2026.

Recital Classes **Participants must perform two (2) contrasting selections** and should enter the level that they are generally enrolled in. Teacher’s Choice selections are permitted (repertoire does not need to be included on a syllabus list). The difficulty of the repertoire should be at their enrolled level or higher. The total performance time must be within the following time limits: Levels 1-5 Maximum 6 Minutes, Levels 6-8 Maximum 10 Minutes, Level 9-10 Maximum 15 Minutes, Diploma 20 Minutes.

PIANO CONCERTO CLASSES

PIANO CONCERTO SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fee	Class Options	Class Requirements
Beginner (Ages 8 & Below) Primary (Ages 9-10)	\$36	Level 6 & Below Level 7 & Above	1 movement
Elementary (Ages 11-12) Junior (Ages 13-14) Intermediate (Ages 15-16)	\$40	Level 8 & Below Level 9 & Above	1 or 2 consecutive movements (maximum 15 minutes)
Senior (Ages 17-18) Advanced (Ages 19-28)	\$44	Open (Diploma) Level	2 consecutive movements (maximum 20 minutes)

PIANO CONCERTO CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

KWCO Concerto Competition Piano participants are eligible to enter the KWCO Concerto Competition for the 2026 KWKMF. This competition alternates between Piano and Strings & Winds each year, and 3 winners are selected to perform with the KW Community Orchestra. Eligibility requirements and details about the competition can be found on page 11 of this syllabus, and participants must register through the KWCO Concerto Competition section of the website.

*Participants who wish to perform a concerto but do not want to participate in the KWCO Concerto Competition may register in the Piano Concerto section of the website.

Piano Concerto Classes Participants must select their level based on their age as of January 1st, 2026, and the grade level that they are generally enrolled in. For example, if a participant enters mostly Level 9 classes, then they should select "Level 9 & Above" under their age group.

Memorization is required for all Piano Concerto classes.

Concerto Movements One (1) movement of a concerto must be performed at the Beginner and Primary Levels. One (1) or two (2) consecutive movements may be performed at the Elementary, Junior and Intermediate Levels (with a maximum time limit 15 minutes). Two (2) consecutive movements must be performed at the Senior and Advanced Levels (with a maximum time limit of 20 minutes)

Accompaniment Concertos must be performed with piano accompaniment, and performers must make their own arrangements for an accompanist. 2 pianos will be available at the venue for concerto classes. Orchestral introductions and breaks in the accompaniment may be abridged.

PIANO ENSEMBLE CLASSES

PIANO ENSEMBLE SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fees	Class Options	Class Requirements
Community (non-competitive)	\$32	Classical Duet	1 selection Memorization is not required
Beginner (Ages 8 & Under)	\$32	Classical Duo	
Primary (Ages 9-10)	\$32	Classical Trio	
Elementary (Ages 11-12)	\$36	Popular Duet	
Junior (Ages 13-14)	\$36	Popular Duo	
Intermediate (Ages 15-16)	\$40	Popular Trio	
Senior (Ages 17-18)	\$44	Piano Quartet (any genre)	
Advanced (Ages 19-28)	\$44		

PIANO ENSEMBLE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Class Requirements Participants must perform one (1) selection (maximum of two (2) movements if applicable). Repertoire does not need to be memorized for Piano Ensemble Classes.

Age Levels Participants must enter the age level of the oldest participant based on their age as of January 1st, 2026, for competitive classes. Participants who are playing at the ARCT/ACCM level or above must enter the Advanced level regardless of age.

Popular Ensemble selections should be covers from commercial artists in any of the following genres: Pop, Folk, R&B, Soul, Rock, Alternative, Indie, Jazz or Country.

Community (non-competitive) Ensembles Classes will be organized based on registration so that participants of similar ages will be grouped together. Child & Adult ensembles are welcome in Community (non-competitive) classes.

Duet One (1) piano, four (4) Hands

Duo Two (2) pianos, four (4) Hands

Trio One (1) piano, six (6) Hands

Quartet Two (2) pianos, eight (8) Hands

PIANO RULES & REGULATIONS

Failure to follow the Rules & Regulations below will disqualify participants from receiving a mark or class placement. Participants may still receive written and verbal evaluations from the adjudicator.

**Participants should consult section 7. General Rules & Regulations and 8. Class Levels & Eligibility sections of the Syllabus.

Sheet Music Participants must provide the adjudicator with a legally purchased copy of the music for all selections (a purchase receipt or IMSLP listing must be presented for digital copies), even when the piece is being performed by memory. Refer to section 7.14 of the Rules, Regulations & Guidelines for more information about Copyright.

Memorization is required for all competitive piano classes, except for Etude classes (Levels 1-10) and Piano Ensemble classes.

Multi-movement Selections One (1) Selection may consist of multiple movements, where specified in the RCM or CC Syllabus. Participants must perform the movement(s) specified in the syllabus where applicable. For example, the syllabus may require that only one movement of a piece be played, or that two or more specific movements be played. For **Recital Classes** no more than two (2) contrasting movements are permitted to be played for a selection.

Time Limit Total performance time must not exceed **twenty (20) minutes** in total for any class. In cases where multiple movements are to be performed, and the total performance time would exceed twenty (20) minutes participants may omit one (1) movement subject to the approval of the KWKMF Coordinator. Selected movements should be contrasting and should reflect the difficulty level of the class.

OMFA PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Participants should consult the OMFA Syllabus guidelines (www.omfa.ca) if they are interested in participating in the OMFA Provincials, as the OMFA requirements may differ from the KW Kiwanis Music Festival Syllabus. At least one (1) selection must have received a mark of 85 at the local festival.

Classical Piano Solo Two (2) selections must be performed (optional: three (3) selections for Open level), and selections must be in the current RCM or CC Syllabi (no exceptions). One (1) selection may be an etude.

Contemporary & Popular Piano, Piano Duets & Trios One (1) selection must be performed.

Piano Quartets Quartets are eligible for the Small Ensemble division. One (1) or two (2) selections may be performed.

Piano Concertos Participants may choose to play either one (1) or two (2) consecutive movements of a concerto.

Adult Amateur Solo Two (2) selections must be performed.

PIANO RESOURCES

[CC Classical Piano Syllabus](#)

[CC Contemporary Idioms Piano Syllabus](#)

[RCM Piano Syllabus, 2022 Edition](#)

[RCM Popular Selection List, 2025 Edition](#)

[Loud and Clear: A Guide to Levelled Piano Music by Women Composers in the 20th and 21st Centuries](#)

[OMFA Contemporary Piano Guidelines](#)

STRINGS PROGRAM

Strings classes are listed under the following subdivisions:

Classical Solo Classes: Cello & Double Bass, Violin & Viola

String Ensembles

Popular Strings

Strings Rules & Regulations and *Strings Resources* are listed at the end of this section of the Syllabus.

STRINGS: CLASSICAL SOLO CLASSES

CELLO & DOUBLE BASS SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fee	Class Options	Class Requirements
Levels Preparatory, 1-4 Levels 5-7 Levels 8-10 Open (Diploma)	\$32 \$36 \$40 \$44	Cello/Bass Solo Etudes	1 RCM Repertoire selection 2 contrasting selections
Levels Preparatory, 1-4 Levels 5-7 Levels 8-10 Open (Diploma)	\$40 \$44 \$48 \$52	Cello/Bass Recital	2 selections from different Repertoire lists (where applicable). Max. 2 movements for 1 selection where applicable.
Community (non-competitive) Adult Amateur	\$32/\$47 \$36/\$51	Suzuki Strings Books 1-5 Classical Solo Classical Recital *Add \$15 for Recital classes	1 selection 1 or 2 short selections (5 mins. Max) 2 selections

VIOLIN & VIOLA SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fee	Class Options	Class Requirements
Levels Preparatory, 1-4 Levels 5-7 Levels 8-10 Open (Diploma)	\$32 \$36 \$40 \$44	List A List B List C (Levels 3+) List D (Levels 8+) Etudes (Prep to Level 10)	1 Repertoire selection, memorization required except for Sonatas/Sonatinas Etudes: see below for specific level requirements
Levels Preparatory, 1-4 Levels 5-7 Levels 8-10 Open (Diploma)	\$40 \$44 \$48 \$52	Violin/Viola Recital	2 selections from different Repertoire lists (where applicable)
Community (non-competitive) Adult Amateur	\$32/\$47 \$36/\$51	Suzuki Strings Books 1-5 Classical Solo Classical Recital *Add \$15 for Recital classes	1 selection 1 or 2 short selections (5 mins. Max) 2 selections

Festival Inquiries: Contact the KWKM Coordinator

danielle@kwkiwanimusicfestival.com

STRINGS: CLASSICAL SOLO CLASS LEVELS

Class Levels for Classical Strings classed are outlined in the 8. Class Levels & Eligibility Section of the Syllabus.

Community (non-competitive) & Adult Amateur Classes Community (non-competitive) classes will be organized based on registration so that participants of similar ages, levels and styles will be grouped together. Adults ages 29 & above must enter Adult Amateur classes.

STRINGS: CLASSICAL SOLO CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Cello/Bass Solo Participants must perform one (1) selection from the appropriate grade level and any Repertoire list in either the *RCM Cello Syllabus 2013 Edition* or the *RCM Double Bass Syllabus 2004 Edition*.

Violin/Viola List Classes (List A, List B, etc) Participants must perform one (1) Selection from the appropriate grade level and list from the *RCM Violin Syllabus 2021 Edition*, *RCM Viola Syllabus 2013 Edition* or *CC Classical Violin Syllabus*.

Recital Classes Participants must perform two contrasting (2) selections from the appropriate grade level and where applicable from different Repertoire lists in the RCM or CC Syllabus. For example, if the grade level includes List A & List B the participant should play one (1) selection from each list. If there is a List C or D, then the participant may choose which two (2) Lists to select from.

Etude Classes Participants must perform the number of Etudes indicated in the RCM or CC Syllabi for their grade level. Note that for most grade levels two (2) Etude selections are required with the following exceptions: Violin/Viola Preparatory to Level 2 must perform one (1) selection, and for Levels 7-10 participants may choose to play either a) two (2) Etudes OR b) one (1) Etude and one (1) Orchestral Excerpt (entire selection as indicated on the syllabus list). Etudes do not need to be memorized.

Suzuki Strings Suzuki Strings classes are listed under “Community (non-competitive)” and are open to any string participants who wish to play selections from a Suzuki Method Book (Levels 1-5). Participants may play one (1) selection or two (2) short selections (with a time limit of no more than 5 minutes performance time). Memorization is not required. **See below regarding OMFA Eligibility under Strings Rules & Regulations.

STRINGS: POPULAR

STRINGS: POPULAR SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fee	Class Options	Class Requirements
Community (non-competitive)	\$32/\$47	Popular Solo	1 selection
Beginner (Ages 8 & under)	\$32/\$47	Popular Recital	2 selections
Primary (Ages 9-10)	\$36/\$51	*Add \$15 for Recital classes	Memorization is required (except for Community (non-competitive) classes)
Elementary (Ages 11-12)	\$36/\$51	in each age category	
Junior (Ages 13-14)	\$40/\$55		
Intermediate (Ages 15-16)	\$44/\$59		
Senior (Ages 17-18)	\$44/\$59		
Advanced (Ages 19-28)			

Festival Inquiries: Contact the KWKMF Coordinator
danielle@kwkiwanimusicfestival.com

POPULAR CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Popular Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection for **Solo** classes or two (2) selections for **Recital** classes. Popular selections should be covers from commercial artists in any of the following genres: Pop, Folk, R&B, Soul, Rock, Alternative, Indie, Jazz or Country. Songs listed in the RCM or CC syllabus are not permitted. Popular selections must be performed with either live accompaniment or an instrumental backing track. For Popular classes participants must enter the level based on their age as of January 1st, 2026.

STRINGS: ENSEMBLE CLASSES

STRING ENSEMBLES SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fee	Class Options	Class Requirements
Beginner (Ages 8 & under)	\$32	Classical Duets & Trios Popular Duets & Trios	2-3 Performers, 1 selection
Primary (Ages 9-10)	\$32		2-3 Performers, 1 selection
Elementary (Ages 11-12)	\$36		Memorization is not required.
Junior (Ages 13-14)	\$36		
Intermediate (Ages 15-16)	\$40		
Senior (Ages 17-18)	\$44		
Advanced (Ages 19-28)	\$44		
Community (non-competitive)	\$32	Elementary (Ages 12 & Under) Junior (Ages 13-19) Adult Amateur (Ages 19 & Above) Adult & Child	2-5 Performers, 1 selection

STRING ENSEMBLES CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Duets Participants must perform one (1) selection, on any two (2) stringed instruments.

Trios Participants must perform one (1) selection, on any three (3) stringed instruments.

Community (non-competitive) Participants must perform one (1) selection. Community (non-competitive) ensembles may include two (2) to five (5) members with the majority of players on stringed instruments.

*Memorization is not required for String Ensemble classes.

**Quartets should register in the Chamber Music or Small Ensembles division (please refer to pages 12-14).

STRING ENSEMBLES CLASS LEVELS

Ages Levels Participants must enter the age level of the oldest participant based on their age as of January 1st, 2026, for competitive classes.

Community (non-competitive) Community (non-competitive) ensembles should select the age group that represents the majority of ensemble members. Where there are equal numbers in different age groups participants may choose either option. Ensembles that include parents or teachers should select the Adult & Child option.

Festival Inquiries: Contact the KWKMF Coordinator
danielle@kwkiwanimusicfestival.com

STRINGS RULES & REGULATIONS

Failure to follow the Rules & Regulations below will disqualify participants from receiving a mark or class placement. Participants may still receive written and verbal evaluations from the adjudicator.

**Participants should consult the 7. General Rules & Regulations and 8. Class Levels & Eligibility sections of the Syllabus.

Accompaniment Participants must perform with live piano accompaniment for all Classical Strings repertoire classes (except where the syllabus indicates that a piece is “Unaccompanied”) and performers must make their own arrangements for an accompanist.

Backing Tracks **For Popular classes only**, participants must use either live accompaniment (piano or guitar/ukulele) or an instrumental backing track that does not have back-up vocals. Performers are encouraged to use tracks with limited instrumental breaks (edited tracks/ reductions are allowed). Backing tracks must be provided as an MP3 file prior to the festival class (registrants will be contacted with instructions for submission). Backing tracks may be purchased from www.karaoke-version.com

Duet & Trio Accompaniment Piano accompaniment is not required but should be included if indicated in the score. The piano part is considered “accompaniment” when the piano part does not have an equal role, and the pianist is not a participant being evaluated. Ensembles where the piano part plays an equal role, and the pianist is a class participant should enter in the “Chamber Music” division.

Multi-movement Selections One (1) selection may consist of multiple movements, where specified in the RCM or CC Syllabus (ex. Sonatas & Concertos). Participants must perform the movement(s) specified in the syllabus where applicable. For example, the syllabus may require that only one movement of a piece be played, or that two or more specific movements be played.

Time Limit Total performance time must not exceed **twenty (20) minutes** in total for any class. In cases where multiple movements are to be performed, and the total performance time would exceed twenty (20) minutes participants may omit one (1) movement subject to the approval of the KWKMF Coordinator. Selected movements should be contrasting and should reflect the difficulty level of the class.

Sheet Music Participants must provide the adjudicator with a legally purchased copy of the music for all selections (a purchase receipt or IMSLP listing must be presented for digital copies), even when the piece is being performed by memory. Refer to section 7.14 of the Rules, Regulations & Guidelines for more information about Copyright.

OMFA Eligibility Participants who enter in Community (non-competitive) classes (including Suzuki classes) may be eligible for OMFA nominations if they perform selections that are included in the RCM or CC Syllabi (see Classical Strings Class Descriptions above) and receive a mark of 85% or above (marks will be recorded privately and will not be shared with the class).

Memorization is required for all competitive Strings Repertoire classes **except for Sonatas/Sonatinas** (as indicated in each syllabus). Exceptions include Cello Levels 6-7: List A (only repertoire marked with *asterisk from List A must be memorized), Cello Levels 8-ARCT: List B, Bass Levels 7-ARCT: List B, Violin/Viola Levels 5-ARCT: List B.

OMFA PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Participants should consult the OMFA Syllabus guidelines (www.omfa.ca) if they are interested in participating in the OMFA Provincials, as the OMFA requirements may differ from the KW Kiwanis Music Festival Syllabus. At least one (1) selection must have received a mark of 85 at the local festival.

Classical Strings Solo Two (2) selections must be performed (optional: three (3) selections for Open level), and selections must be in the current RCM or CC Syllabi (no exceptions). One (1) selection may be an etude.

* Participants who enter in Community (non-competitive) classes (including Suzuki classes) may be eligible for OMFA nominations if they perform selections that are included in the RCM or CC Syllabi (see Classical Strings Class Descriptions above) and receive a mark of 85% or above (marks will be recorded privately and will not be shared with the class).

Popular Strings, Duets & Trios One (1) selection must be performed.

Adult Amateur Solo Two (2) selections must be performed.

STRINGS RESOURCES

[*CC Classical Violin Syllabus*](#)

[*RCM Violin Syllabus, 2021 Edition*](#)

[*RCM Cello Syllabus, 2013 Edition*](#)

[*RCM Viola Syllabus, 2013 Edition*](#)

[*RCM Double Bass Syllabus, 2004 Edition*](#)

VOICE PROGRAM

Voice classes are listed under the following subdivisions:

Classical

Musical Theatre

Popular

VOICE: CLASSICAL SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fee	Class Options	Class Requirements
Community (non-competitive) & Adult	\$32/\$47	Classical Solo	1 selection
Beginner (Ages 8 & Below)	\$32/\$47	Classical Recital	2 selections (2 different languages for Ages 15 and older in competitive classes)
Primary (Ages 9-10)	\$32/\$47	*Add \$15 for Recital classes	
Elementary (Ages 11-12)	\$36/\$51		
Junior (Ages 13-14)	\$36/\$51	Classical Duets & Trios	1 selection *A Capella or live piano accompaniment for duets & trios
Intermediate (Ages 15-16)	\$40/\$55		
Senior (Ages 17-18)	\$44/\$59		
Advanced (Ages 19-28)	\$44/\$59		

VOICE: MUSICAL THEATRE SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fee	Class Options	Class Requirements
Beginner (Ages 8 & Below)	\$32/\$47	Golden Age (1974 & earlier)	1 selection
Primary (Ages 9-10)	\$32/\$47	Contemporary (1975 & later)	
Elementary (Ages 11-12)	\$36/\$51	Sondheim	
Junior (Ages 13-14)	\$36/\$51	Songs from the Screen & More	
Intermediate (Ages 15-16)	\$40/\$55	Musical Theatre Ensembles	2-4 Performers, 1 selection
Senior (Ages 17-18)	\$44/\$59	Musical Theatre Recital	2 selections
Advanced (Ages 19-28)	\$44/\$59	Songs From the Screen Recital	2 selections
		*Add \$15 for Recital classes	
Community (non-competitive)	\$32	Musical Theatre Solo	1 performer, 1 selection
Adult Amateur	\$40 (Recital)	Musical Theatre Ensembles	2-4 performers, 1 selection
		Musical Theatre Recital	1 performer, 2 selections

VOICE: POPULAR SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fee	Class Options	Class Requirements
Beginner (Ages 8 & below)	\$32/\$47	Popular Solo	1 selection (backing track required)
Primary (Ages 9-10)	\$32/\$47	Self-Accompanied	1 selection (live accompaniment)
Elementary (Ages 11-12)	\$36/\$51	Singer-Songwriter	1 selection (accompaniment or track)
Junior (Ages 13-14)	\$36/\$51	Popular Ensemble	2-4 Performers, 1 selection
Intermediate (Ages 15-16)	\$40/\$55		
Senior (Ages 17-18)	\$44/\$59	Popular Recital	2 selections
Advanced (Ages 19-28)	\$44/\$59	*Add \$15 for Recital classes	*Mic required for ages 11 & above
Community (non-competitive)	\$32	Popular Solo	1 performer, 1 selection
Adult Amateur	\$40 (Recital)	Popular Ensemble	2-4 performers, 1 selection
		Popular Recital	1 performer, 2 selections

Festival Inquiries: Contact the KWKMF Coordinator

danielle@kwkiwanimusicfestival.com

VOICE CLASS LEVELS

Age Levels For age level classes participants must enter the level based on their age as of January 1st, 2026. For vocal ensemble classes participants must enter the age level of the oldest participant based on their age as of January 1st, 2026.

Community (non-competitive) Classes Community classes will be organized based on registration so that participants of similar ages and levels will be grouped together. Adult-Child groups may enter Community (non-competitive) Ensemble classes.

Adult Amateur Classes Adults ages 29 & above must enter at this level.

VOICE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Vocal Solo Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection

Vocal Recital Classes Participants must perform two (2) contrasting selections. For **Classical Classes** at the Intermediate level and higher each selection must be in a different language.

Classical Classes Repertoire selections are Teacher's/Student's choice and do not need to follow a graded syllabus list as long as they fit the classical genre (for example: traditional folksongs and art songs, etc). Participants may use the *RCM Voice Syllabus 2015 Edition* or *CC Classical Voice Syllabus 2018 Edition* as a guideline in repertoire selection but are not limited to these lists. Opera, Operetta and Oratorio selections (including Recitatives in Arias) are only permitted at the Senior and Advanced levels. *Exception: Baroque or Mozart arias may be performed at the Intermediate level. **Repertoire that is not permitted:** Vocalises/Stand-Alone Recitatives, Popular or Musical Theatre (RCM: Levels 1-6 List C, Levels 7-10 List D, ARCT List F & CC: Levels 1-6 List C, Level 7 List D, Level 8-10 List E).

Musical Theatre **Golden Age (1974 & earlier), Contemporary (1975 & later)** and **Sondheim** selections must be from a **fully staged** musical theatre production and participants must use versions of the songs as shown in the production book/score (Junior show versions are not allowed). Selections may be Teacher's Choice or students may choose from the *CC Contemporary Idioms Vocal Syllabus*, or the Musical Theatre lists found in the RCM & CC Classical Voice Syllabi. Songs From the Screen & More selections are not permitted in the Musical Theatre Solo or Recital classes (consult the [SSAM Song Chart](#) for guidance) .

*Participants may choose to wear costumes and/or use handheld props for any Musical Theatre class (not required).

Songs from the Screen & More Participants may choose songs that were written for or first appeared in animated films, movies, television, revues, cabarets, stand-alone songs in musical theatre style or songs from musicals that were not fully staged or produced. Selections must either be included in the [SSAM Song Chart](#) (which also lists excluded selections), or they must be submitted to the [KWKMF Coordinator](#) for approval. (Excluded selections may be songs that were originally written for a live production, songs that were originally released as a Pop song, selections that are primarily spoken, Junior show or simplified versions).

Popular Solo Selections should be covers from commercial artists in a popular genre including Pop, Rock, Folk, R&B, Jazz, Blues, Country or Gospel. Selections may also be from the *CC Contemporary Idioms Vocal Syllabus* (**excluding** Musical Theatre lists), or the Popular lists found in the RCM & CC Classical Voice Syllabi. Participants may choose to perform with or without a microphone at the Beginner and Primary levels and must perform with a microphone for all other age groups. Participants must perform with either live accompaniment or a backing track (see below for details).

A sound system will be provided with a microphone at the venue. Participants have the option to bring their own microphone which should use a standard XLR cable.

*Note: Participants should check the [SSAM Song Chart](#) as some popular songs may fit in the Songs From the Screen category (for example, if the song were included in a movie or musical production). Songs from the SSAM Song Chart are not permitted in the Popular Voice classes.

Self-Accompanied Classes Participants should refer to the Popular Solo description above for repertoire guidelines. Participants must accompany themselves on piano, guitar or ukulele. Accompaniment parts may be arranged or comped/improvised from a chord chart. Participants may choose to perform with or without a microphone at the Beginner and Primary levels and must perform with a microphone for all other age groups.

Singer-Songwriter Classes Participants must perform their own composition in a popular style and may perform with piano, guitar or ukulele (self-accompanied) or a backing track. Participants must provide a lyric sheet to the adjudicator. (*Classical vocal compositions should be entered in the Composition division of the festival)

Popular Recital Classes Participants must perform two (2) contrasting selections. Selections may include any combination of Popular, Self-Accompanied or Singer-Songwriter repertoire.

Vocal Ensemble Classes Ensembles classes include **Duets, Trios & Quartets**, and participants must perform one (1) selection either A Capella or with live piano accompaniment (guitar, ukulele or instrumental backing tracks allowed for Popular Ensembles).

Community (non-competitive) Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection for Solo and Ensemble classes and must perform two (2) selections for Recital classes in the appropriate genre. For **Popular Classes** participants may sing with or without a microphone and may perform with accompaniment (self-accompanied allowed) or a backing track. Participants will receive a written and verbal adjudication, as well as a Participation Ribbon, but will not be given marks or class placements and are not eligible for financial awards or OMFA Provincials recommendations. Community (non-competitive) classes will be organized based on registration so that participants of similar ages and levels will be grouped together.

Adult Amateur Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection for Solo and Ensemble classes and must perform two (2) selections for Recital classes in the appropriate genre. For **Popular Classes** participants may sing with or without a microphone and may perform with accompaniment (self-accompanied allowed) or a backing track. Participants will receive verbal and written feedback and will be eligible for OMFA Provincials nominations if they receive a mark of 85% or above (marks will be recorded privately and will not be shared with the class).

VOICE RULES & REGULATIONS

Failure to follow the Rules & Regulations below will disqualify participants from receiving a mark or class placement. Participants may still receive written and verbal evaluations from the adjudicator.

**Participants should consult the 7. General Rules & Regulations and 8. Class Levels & Eligibility sections of the Syllabus.

Accompaniment Participants must perform with live piano accompaniment for all **Classical** and **Musical Theatre** classes and performers must make their own arrangements for an accompanist (except for Ensembles which may choose to sing A Capella). For **Popular** classes live accompaniment may include piano, ukulele or guitar.

Backing Tracks For **Popular** classes only, participants may choose to use a backing track that does not have back-up vocals. Backing tracks must not exceed 5 minutes in length and performers are encouraged to use tracks with limited instrumental breaks (edited tracks/ reductions are allowed). Backing tracks must be provided prior to the festival

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danielle@kwkiwanimusicfestival.com

class (registrants will be contacted with instructions for submission). Backing tracks may be purchased from www.karaoke-version.com

Sheet Music/Lyrics Participants must provide the adjudicator with a legally purchased copy of the music for all selections (unless listed on IMSLP) even when the piece is being performed by memory. For digital copies of music that was purchased online either 1) the participant's or parent's name must be shown on the sheet music as the owner, or 2) a purchase receipt must be provided (in cases where the teacher made the purchase on behalf of a student the teacher may issue a receipt to show proof of purchase). For Popular songs participants may provide a lyric sheet but only if there is no sheet music available. Refer to the General Rules, Regulations & Guidelines for more information about Copyright.

Vocal Cuts Vocals cuts are not permitted, with an exception for a repeated chorus.

Original Language For Classical vocal classes, selections must be sung in their original language.

Mature Content/Censorship Disclaimer: For 15+ age groups (Intermediate level and above) music selections may contain offensive language and/or content that may explore mature themes, viewer discretion is advised. For ages 14 and below selections should be age appropriate and participants should avoid offensive language and mature content.

Gender Roles Participants may sing whatever role or gender they feel applicable to themselves and any story line they would like to portray.

Memorization is required for all competitive voice classes.

OMFA PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Participants should consult the OMFA Syllabus guidelines (www.omfa.ca) if they are interested in participating in the OMFA Provincials, as the OMFA requirements may differ from the KW Kiwanis Music Festival Syllabus. At least one (1) selection must have received a mark of 85 at the local festival.

Voice Solos (all genres) Two (2) selections must be performed for Intermediate levels and below, three (3) selections must be performed at the Senior level and four (4) selections at the Advanced level.

Vocal Duets & Trios One (1) selection must be performed.

Vocal Quartets Quartets are eligible for the Small Ensemble division. One (1) or two (2) selections may be performed.

Adult Amateur Solo Two (2) selections must be performed.

VOICE RESOURCES

[CC Classical Voice Syllabus](#)

[OMFA Songs from the Screen Song Chart](#)

[CC Contemporary Idioms Voice Syllabus](#)

[RCM Classical Voice Syllabus, 2025 Edition](#)

WOODWIND PROGRAM

WOODWIND SYLLABUS

Class Levels	Class Fee	Class Options	Class Requirements
Community/Adult (non-competitive) Levels Prep, 1-4 Levels 5-7 Levels 8-10 Open (Diploma)	\$32/\$47 \$32/\$47 \$36/\$51 \$40/\$55 \$44/\$59	Classical Solo Etudes Classical Recital *Add \$15 for Recital classes	1 RCM or CC Repertoire selection 2 contrasting Etudes/Studies 2 selections from different Repertoire syllabus lists (where applicable)
Community/Adult (non-competitive) Primary (Ages 10 & under) Elementary (Ages 11-12) Junior (Ages 13-14) Intermediate (Ages 15-16) Senior (Ages 17-18) Advanced (Ages 19-28)	\$32/\$47 \$32/\$47 \$36/\$51 \$36/\$51 \$40/\$55 \$44/\$59 \$44/\$59	Woodwind Concerto Classical Duet/Trio Popular Solo Popular Duet/Trio Popular Recital *Add \$15 for Recital classes	1 selection, 1 or 2 movements 2 or 3 Performers, 1 selection 1 Performer, 1 selection 2 or 3 Performers, 1 selection 1 Performer, 2 contrasting selections

WOODWIND CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Woodwind Solo Participants must perform one (1) selection from the appropriate grade level and any Repertoire list in their instrument's RCM or CC Syllabus. Accompaniment is required (see Rules & Regulations below).

Woodwind Recital Participants must perform two contrasting (2) selections from the appropriate grade level and from different Repertoire lists in their instrument's RCM or CC Syllabus. For example, if the grade level includes List A & List B the participant should play one (1) selection from each list. If there is a List C, then the participant may choose which two (2) Lists to select from. Accompaniment is required (see Rules & Regulations below).

Etude Classes Participants must perform two (2) contrasting Etudes/Studies from the appropriate grade level. Where the syllabus indicates "Group 1", and "Group 2" participants should select one (1) Etude from each Group.

Woodwind Concerto Participants may perform one (1) or two (2) movements of a concerto. Repertoire selections do not need to be from a syllabus list. Participants must enter the level based on their age as of January 1st, 2026, and should select the grade level that they are currently playing at.

Popular Classes Participants must perform one (1) selection for **Solo** classes or two (2) selections for **Recital** classes. Popular selections should be covers from commercial artists in any of the following genres: Pop, Folk, R&B, Soul, Rock, Alternative, Indie, Jazz or Country. Songs listed in the RCM or CC syllabus are not permitted. Popular selections must be performed with either live accompaniment or an instrumental backing track. For Popular classes participants must enter the level based on their age as of January 1st, 2026.

Duets & Trios Participants must perform one (1) selection in the appropriate genre and must enter the age level of the oldest participant based on their age as of January 1st, 2026, for competitive classes.

Community & Adult Amateur Classes (non-competitive) Participants must perform one (1) selection for Solo classes and must perform two (2) selections for Recital classes in the appropriate genre. Participants will receive a written and verbal adjudication, as well as a Participation Ribbon, but will not be given marks or class placements and are not eligible for financial awards or OMFA Provincials recommendations. Community classes will be organized based on registration so that participants of similar ages and levels will be grouped together. Adults ages 29 and above must enter at the Community (non-competitive) level, and Adult & Child groups may enter Community (non-competitive) ensemble classes

WOODWIND RULES & REGULATIONS

Failure to follow the Rules & Regulations below will disqualify participants from receiving a mark or class placement. Participants may still receive written and verbal evaluations from the adjudicator.

**Participants should consult the 7. General Rules & Regulations and 8. Class Levels & Eligibility sections of the Syllabus.

Accompaniment Participants must perform with live piano accompaniment for all **Woodwind Solo & Woodwind Recital** classes (except where the syllabus indicates that a piece is “Unaccompanied”) and performers must make their own arrangements for an accompanist.

Backing Tracks **For Popular classes only**, participants must use either live accompaniment (piano or guitar/ukulele) or an instrumental backing track that does not have back-up vocals. Performers are encouraged to use tracks with limited instrumental breaks (edited tracks/ reductions are allowed). Backing tracks must be provided prior to the festival class (registrants will be contacted with instructions for submission). Backing tracks may be purchased from www.karaoke-version.com

Duet & Trio Accompaniment Piano accompaniment is not required but should be included if indicated in the score. The piano part is considered “accompaniment” when the piano part does not have an equal role, and the pianist is not a participant being evaluated. Ensembles where the piano part plays an equal role, and the pianist is a class participant should enter in the “Chamber Music” division.

Multi-movement Selections One (1) selection may consist of multiple movements, where specified in the RCM or CC Syllabus (ex. Sonatas & Concertos). Participants must perform the movement(s) specified in the syllabus where applicable. For example, the syllabus may require that only one movement of a piece be played, or that two or more specific movements be played.

Time Limit Total performance time must not exceed **twenty (20) minutes** in total for any class.

Sheet Music Participants must provide the adjudicator with a legally purchased copy of the music for all selections (a purchase receipt or IMSLP listing must be presented for digital copies), even when the piece is being performed by memory. Refer to section 7.14 of the Rules, Regulations & Guidelines for more information about Copyright.

Memorization is not required for Woodwind classes.

OMFA PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Participants should consult the OMFA Syllabus guidelines (www.omfa.ca) if they are interested in participating in the OMFA Provincials, as the OMFA requirements may differ from the KW Kiwanis Music Festival Syllabus. At least one (1) selection must have received a mark of 85 at the local festival.

Flute, Reeds Solo Two (2) selections must be performed (optional: three (3) selections for Open level). Selections must be in the current RCM or CC Syllabi (no exceptions). One (1) selection may be an etude. (*Classical Woodwind classes are divided into Flute and Reeds)

Popular Woodwind Solo, Duets & Trios One (1) selection must be performed.

Woodwind Concertos One (1) selection must be performed, which may include one (1) or two (2) consecutive movements.

WOODWIND RESOURCES

[CC Classical Clarinet Syllabus](#)

[RCM Flute Syllabus, 2010 Edition](#)

[CC Classical Flute Syllabus](#)

[RCM Oboe Syllabus, 2006 Edition](#)

[RCM Bassoon Syllabus, 2025 Edition](#)

[RCM Recorder Syllabus, 2008 Edition](#)

[RCM Clarinet Syllabus, 2013 Edition](#)

[RCM Saxophone Syllabus, 2013 Edition](#)