



45th Anniversary

2026 Syllabus



Please join us
from April 6 to May 1
Entries close February 20

<https://gkmf.ca>
admin@gkmf.ca
519.821.4365

KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL OF GUELPH

What's New in 2026

Dates:

- ▶ Most solo and ensemble classes will run from April 6 to 17 at various Guelph venues. Choirs and Bands will take place April 28 to May 1 at E.L. Fox Auditorium. Please see the Tentative 2026 Schedule for details. Updated versions will be posted on the website as they become available.
- ▶ The **Festival Gala Concert & Fundraiser** will take place at GYMCA on Saturday, February 7 at 7:30pm. Please join us for an eclectic concert and an elegant evening.
- ▶ The **Highlights of the Festival Concert & Awards Ceremony** will be held on Saturday, May 9, at 7:00pm at St. George's Anglican Church, 99 Woolwich Street.
- ▶ The **deadline** for OMFA (Provincials) applications for all nominees is **May 12, 2026 at 11:59 PM**. Please note, Provincials will be offered in a combination of live and virtual formats. The live competition will take place in Kitchener-Waterloo from June 8 to 13. Visit omfa.ca for details.

Entry Deadline:

- ▶ The **deadline** for entries for the 2026 Festival is **February 20, 2025**. We ask that you express any difficulties with scheduling at the time of application. We will not be able to make changes after scheduling has been completed.

Website & Online Applications:

- ▶ Our website address is <https://gkmf.ca>
- ▶ Online applications will be available **until February 20**
- ▶ **Paper applications will only be accepted for Large Groups** (6 or more performers).

Online Schedule Notices & Updates:

- ▶ Online schedules and programs will be available for download in mid-late March.
- ▶ Be sure to check the website regularly for any changes and updates that may occur.

Recent Syllabus Updates:

- ▶ For 2026, the Festival will not be offering classes for Harp or Digital Piano & Keyboard due to a lack of interest and too few participants.
- ▶ A competitor's age will now be defined as of **January 1st, 2026** and not December 31, 2025.
- ▶ The Band and Jazz Syllabi have been updated to clarify classes for both elementary and secondary school bands.
- ▶ The Piano Syllabus has been updated to allow separate classes for Romantic Era and 20th & 20st Century pieces in the By Level category. Concerto classes have also been updated to coincide with the Provincials Syllabus.
- ▶ The Strings Syllabus has been updated so that ages coincide with the Provincials Syllabus.
- ▶ OMFA Provincials has combined Open and Diploma into one category for ARCT and above. Adjudicators in all disciplines will be able to recommend up to 3 competitors at each level.
- ▶ Rules have been clarified with regard to memorization and repeats to coincide with OMFA regulations.
- ▶ Visit omfa.ca for full Syllabus details.



45th Annual

KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL OF GUELPH

Executive

Chair Tom Watson
Treasurer Mike Manera
Festival Coordinator Heather Fleming

Festival Committee

Community Outreach Dave Davidson
Locations & Properties Dan Waterston
Equipment Coordinator Don Kidd
Publicity Paul Baker, Ken Gee & Camila Mussa
Rules & Awards Mike Manera
Emcee Tom Watson
Music Advisory Dave Davidson & Ken Gee
Promotion Rick Woolfrey

Syllabus Advisory Committees

Bands Dorothy Vreeswyk-Kidd
Piano Ellen Berry
Strings Paule Barsalou
Voice Marion Samuel-Stevens

*The Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph Syllabus
is available online at <https://gkmf.ca>*

KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL OF GUELPH

General Rules and Regulations

Management

1. The KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL OF GUELPH shall be under the management of the MUSIC FESTIVAL COMMITTEE of the KIWANIS CLUB OF GUELPH, which is hereinafter called "THE COMMITTEE". THE COMMITTEE reserves the right to alter, amend and interpret any rule, for the good of the Festival.
2. All matters not dealt with in these rules shall be referred to THE COMMITTEE, whose decision on such matters shall be final and binding upon all concerned.

► Liability

The KIWANIS CLUB OF GUELPH is not responsible for the loss of or damage to articles in any of the buildings used for performances during the KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL OF GUELPH.

► **Copyright - PLEASE OBSERVE COPYRIGHT LAWS.** Photocopies or computer-generated copies will not be accepted unless they show legal authorization from the publisher or copyright holder or proof of purchase (receipt). Music in the Public Domain is copyright free and is acceptable. Accompanists may play from photocopies at both the local Festival and OMFA Provincials.

► Video & Audio Recording

- Video or Audio recording of any performance by audience members is permitted providing the performer has given their permission and the recording is unobtrusive to other audience members; absolutely **NO** flash photography is allowed. Permission may also be granted to media for unobtrusive video recording and photography of selected performances.
- Video or Audio recording of adjudications is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.
- Still photography is permitted if time is available between performances.

Definitions

3. An "amateur" shall be defined as a person for whom the principal means of livelihood is not obtained from the performance or teaching of music in the particular category in which he or she is competing. This stipulation does not, however, preclude such a person from performing if they have occasionally received remuneration for musical services rendered, even in the area in which he or she is competing.

Eligibility

4. All classes, unless otherwise stated, shall be open to amateurs only.
5. In all classes in which an age limit is set, performers must be of the prescribed age on January 1 preceding the Festival. Exact date and year of birth must be provided at the time of registration.
6. Performers in choirs, bands, or orchestras may be amateur or professional but must be bona fide members of their respective organizations.
7. A performing group whose membership is 60% or more the same as that of another performing group shall be considered the same group, regardless of change in name.
8. Conductors may be either professional or amateur. Conductors may conduct any number of organizations in the same class or otherwise but must not sing with their choral society or choir, or play with their orchestra or band, unless specifically permitted under the class heading.
9. Unless otherwise stated in the syllabus under the section or class heading, a choir consists of 13 members or more. Ensembles have fewer members.
10. Ensembles of 5 or fewer performers should not be conducted. Ensembles of 6 or more performers may be conducted.

11. Performers studying with or performing in a group directed by an adjudicator during the calendar year of the Festival or within the 6 months preceding the Festival will be ineligible to compete in the classes adjudicated by that adjudicator.

Performance Pieces

12. In instrumental classes, repeats are optional but encouraged.
13. All performance pieces for solo performances must be memorized unless otherwise stated in the Rules specific to each section and/or class of the Syllabus. In competitive classes, failure to comply with this rule will render the performer ineligible for a mark, but an adjudication may be given. In both competitive and non-competitive classes, failure to comply with this rule will render the performer ineligible for a prize for that class. Memorization will be considered during prize allocation.
14. All musical selections are own choice for every class. It is the performer's responsibility to ensure that the adjudicator has a legal copy (not a photocopy) of the edition of the music they will be performing. This music must be given to the Adjudicator Assistant immediately preceding the respective performance and recovered following the class. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a denial of performance, permission to perform without adjudication, or adjudication without marks.
15. No piece may be used in more than one class by the same performer.
16. In all classes, the same work cannot be performed in successive years. Advanced Students (Grade 7 or Equivalent & Above) in all disciplines who are taking two years to work toward an exam or who are still studying at a particular level, will be permitted to perform the same piece at the Festival in subsequent years provided this piece was not performed at **Provincials** the previous year. **OMFA** allows performers to compete at the same level in subsequent years provided the competitors were not winners at this level, but the same pieces cannot be performed again.
17. In the event that competitors have taken partial examinations with either Conservatory prior to December 31 of the previous calendar year, and if they have completed the repertoire section of their Conservatory exam at that grade level, they are not eligible to enter that grade level at the local Festival or at **Provincials**.
18. Time limits, where specified, must be adhered to.

Entries

19. Entries may be submitted using the online application available at <https://gkmf.ca>. When submitting an online application, you will be deemed to accept the terms of the waiver including knowledge of and compliance with all the Rules and Regulations. Payment may be made by e-Transfer to admin@gkmf.ca or by credit card online or by cheque if preferred. Cheques should be made payable to the Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph and should not be post-dated beyond the deadline for entries.
20. Entry fees cannot be refunded except under circumstances wherein the entry is rejected by THE COMMITTEE. Performers desiring to withdraw their entry must do so in writing to the Festival Coordinator as early as possible.
21. THE COMMITTEE shall determine the closing date for receiving entries; any entry received after such date may be rejected. THE COMMITTEE reserves the right to reject any entry for any other reason.
22. Please notify the Festival Coordinator of any change of address following submission of entry form.

Programme Procedure

23. The schedule will be posted on the website, and it is the responsibility of the performer to know when and where their classes will be taking place. Performers are expected to arrive 15 minutes before their class is scheduled to begin. Programs specific to each venue will also be posted online and available at each venue and will list all performers in order of appearance.
24. Performers must provide their own accompanist.
25. THE COMMITTEE may, at its sole discretion, combine or delete classes if it considers that the number and nature of entries warrants such a decision.

26. THE COMMITTEE reserves the right to substitute or appoint additional adjudicators.
27. THE COMMITTEE reserves the right to disqualify any performer who is not ready to perform when called.
28. The performance order may be changed at the discretion of the Adjudicator in consultation with THE COMMITTEE, if deemed necessary.
29. A chord may be given on the piano at the commencement of each piece of unaccompanied music.

Highlights of the Festival Concert & Awards Ceremony

30. Performers for the Festival Concert are chosen by THE COMMITTEE for programme reasons from among those recommended by the adjudicators and need not be prize winners. The Festival Coordinator will confirm all selections.
31. Performers at the Festival Concert do so without remuneration or payment for incidental expenses.
32. Medals and scholarships are presented at the Festival Concert.

Complaints and Protests

33. Complaints and protests must be made directly to the Festival Coordinator in writing during the Festival and must be accompanied by a fee equivalent to the amount of the entry fee of the class being protested. If the protest is sustained, the fee will be refunded.
34. There will be no practicing allowed in the performance space prior to classes. Some disciplines will have a warm-up room provided. A moment to set up registrations on digital pianos and organs is permitted.
35. THE DECISION OF THE ADJUDICATOR IS FINAL.

Scholarships

36. Scholarships are monetary awards. The allocation of the number and value of the prizes is at the discretion of the adjudicator and the Awards Committee and is governed by the following factors:
 - the recommendation of the adjudicator
 - the amount donated by the community
 - the proportional number of entries in a category, for example, 1,000 piano, 500 voice, 300 strings, etc.
 - the excellence of the performance
 - the performer's potential for future musical success
 - the frequency and variety of entries by the performer(s)
 - previous prize winnings
37. All participants in all classes, competitive, non-competitive or award to standard, unless disqualified for breach of rules, are eligible to receive scholarships.
38. a) In most competitive classes, marks will be given and ribbons awarded based on the following:

~First Prize	- first in class	- with a minimum mark of 80%
~Second Prize	- first or second in class	- with a minimum mark of 75%
~Third Prize	- first, second or third in class	- with a minimum mark of 70%

At the discretion of the adjudicator, more than one performer with the same mark may be placed in each category.
- b) In some classes, placement will be awarded according to the standard achieved: Gold (outstanding), Silver (very good), Bronze (good), or Merit (needs additional preparation). These classes will be designated AWARD TO STANDARD (A/S) in the rules of their respective section. It is the adjudicator's sole discretion to determine which level of performance has been achieved. All performers within one class may be of the same standard and receive the same designation.

- c) In non-competitive (N/C) classes, the performer will receive an adjudication and a participation ribbon and will be eligible for scholarships but will not receive a mark or placement.
39. The adjudicator's oral comments will be presented to each performer at the end of the class along with the appropriate ribbons, a certificate, and the adjudicator's written comments. Scholarships and medals will be presented at the Highlights of the Festival Concert.
40. Prizes are awarded to performers who, on the basis of their performance, show the most promise of future musical success. The awarding of scholarships is not restricted to performers who place in competitive classes. Prizes are also awarded to groups for excellence in performance.
41. The KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL OF GUELPH wishes to encourage the development of the musical talent of Guelph and Wellington County residents and to distribute an appropriate amount of prize money to both solo performers and groups. To that end, the distribution of prizes will be governed by the following guidelines:
- No less than 50% of the total money shall be awarded to residents of Guelph and Wellington County.
 - No less than 30% of the total money shall be awarded to groups.

Alice Sloan Memorial Prizes

42. In memory of Alice Sloan, Festival Secretary (1983 – 1988), up to 5 special prizes will be awarded to deserving young solo performers, as selected by the adjudicators, to perform at the Festival Concert specifically as ALICE SLOAN MEMORIAL PRIZE winners. These will be selected using the following criteria.
- Recipients must be 15 years of age or under for most instrumentalists (piano, strings, etc.),
 - or 17 years of age or under for vocalists and brass & wind players,
 - must NOT have been a previous Alice Sloan Prize winner and
 - shall display not only skill and musicianship but also promise of future success in performance.
- The ALICE SLOAN MEMORIAL PRIZES will be awarded in addition to any other prizes.

Provincial Finals

43. As a member of the ONTARIO MUSIC FESTIVALS ASSOCIATION (OMFA), the KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL OF GUELPH may send some of its performers to the corresponding provincial competition. Finalists are selected exclusively on the recommendation of the adjudicators and may or may not be scholarship recipients. Preference may be given to those performers who reside in Guelph or Wellington County.
44. The entry fee and cost of transportation, accommodation, and accompanists is the responsibility of the individual Provincial Finalist.
45. The Provincial Finalist must agree to be governed by the Rules and Regulations of the ONTARIO MUSIC FESTIVALS ASSOCIATION. Visit omfa.ca for further details.

JAZZ, RAGTIME & BLUES

- (i) All participants are subject to the GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS of the Festival. Please read them all.
- (ii) In NON-COMPETITIVE (N/C) classes, each performer will receive an adjudication and be eligible for scholarship consideration and Provincial Finalist designation but will NOT receive marks or placement.
- (iii) In COMPETITIVE classes, each performer will receive an adjudication, marks, placement, and appropriate ribbons and will be eligible for scholarship consideration and Provincial Finalist designation.
- (iv) In AWARD TO STANDARD (A/S) classes (Choirs & Bands), no marks will be given, but performers will be awarded a Gold, Silver, Bronze, or Merit designation based on the standard achieved. See RULE 38(b).
- (v) Please note the delineation of Junior, Intermediate and Senior for most solo classes. At the Junior level, classes are Blues based. At the Intermediate level, classes are either modal or key-centered. At the Senior level, classes include the use of II-V progressions as well as free improvisation over chord changes.
- (vi) It is the responsibility of the performer to provide the adjudicator with a LEGAL COPY of the music to be performed. **PLEASE OBSERVE COPYRIGHT LAWS.** Photocopies or computer-generated copies will not be accepted unless they show legal authorization from the publisher or copyright holder or proof of purchase (receipt). Music in the Public Domain is copyright free and is also acceptable.

CHOIRS – A/S

- J101 (\$50) Show Choirs – Two Parts or More**
Own choice of any swing, pop, or jazz choral arrangement. Accompaniment not more than seven instrumentalists. Festival provides only piano. Time limit of 8 minutes includes set-up and warm-up.

VOICE – N/C

- (1) Own choice of any Jazz Standard.
- (2) Accompaniment is optional but must be acoustic.
- (3) Festival provides only piano.

- J111 (\$34) 26 & Over**
J112 (\$34) 19 – 25
J113 (\$34) 18 & Under
J114 (\$32) 16 & Under
J115 (\$32) 14 & Under

VOICE – COMPETITIVE

- (1) Own choice of any Jazz Standard.
- (2) Accompaniment is optional but must be acoustic.
- (3) Festival provides only piano.

- J121 (\$34) 26 & Over**
J122 (\$34) 19 – 25
J123 (\$34) 18 & Under
J124 (\$32) 16 & Under
J125 (\$32) 14 & Under

BANDS – OPEN – A/S

- J131 (\$60) Jazz/Stage Bands**
Perform three contrasting selections. The repertoire selected must include a Swing, Ballad, and one own choice (e.g., Latin/Funk/Modern). Time limit of 20 min.
- J132 (\$50) Jazz Combos**
Perform two selections. Performances must include improvisation. Time limit of 15 min.

BANDS – SCHOOL – A/S

- J141 (\$60) Secondary School Class A Jazz Bands - Grades 11/12**
Perform three contrasting selections. The repertoire selected must include a Swing, Ballad, and one own choice (e.g., Latin/Funk/Modern). Directors are encouraged to choose repertoire that aligns with the level of their concert ensembles, i.e., bands entered in the A Class should be performing repertoire at a similar level with their jazz ensemble. Time limit of 20 min.
- J142 (\$60) Secondary School Class B Jazz Bands - Grades 11/12**
Perform two contrasting selections. Repertoire selected must include a Swing and one own choice piece (e.g., Ballad/Latin/Funk/Modern). Directors are encouraged to choose repertoire that aligns with the level of their concert ensembles, i.e., bands entered in the B Class should be performing repertoire at a similar level with their jazz ensemble. Time limit of 15 min.

- J143 (\$58) Secondary School Jazz Bands
Grades 9/10**
Perform two contrasting selections.
Repertoire selected should be at a level appropriate to the students' development.
Swing, Latin, Ballad, Funk and Modern jazz styles are strongly encouraged.
Time limit of 10 minutes.
- J144 (\$50) Secondary School Jazz Combo
Grades 11/12**
Perform two selections. Performances must include improvisation. Time limit of 15 min.
- J145 (\$50) Secondary School Jazz Combo
Grades 9/10**
Perform two selections. Performances must include improvisation. Time limit of 10 min.
- J146 (\$58) Elementary School Jazz Bands
Grades 8 & Under**
Perform one or two selections at a level appropriate to the students' development.
Time limit of 10 min.
- J147 (\$50) Elementary School Jazz Combo
Grades 7/8**
Perform one or two selections at a level appropriate to the students' development.
Time limit of 10 min.

BRASS & WOODWINDS – N/C – JAZZ STANDARDS

- (1) Own choice of one or two pieces.
(2) Time limit of 10 minutes.
- J151 (\$34) Senior – Advanced**
J152 (\$32) Intermediate – Experienced
J153 (\$30) Junior – Introductory

BRASS & WOODWINDS – COMPETITIVE – JAZZ STANDARDS

- (1) Own choice of one or two pieces.
(2) Time limit of 10 minutes.
- J156 (\$34) Senior – Advanced**
J157 (\$32) Intermediate – Experienced
J158 (\$30) Junior – Introductory

BRASS & WOODWINDS – N/C – RAGTIME

- (1) Own choice of one or two pieces.
(2) Time limit of 10 minutes.
- J161 (\$34) Senior – Advanced**
J162 (\$32) Intermediate – Experienced
J163 (\$30) Junior – Introductory

BRASS & WOODWINDS – COMPETITIVE – RAGTIME

- (1) Own choice of one or two pieces.
(2) Time limit of 10 minutes.
- J166 (\$34) Senior – Advanced**
J167 (\$32) Intermediate – Experienced
J168 (\$30) Junior – Introductory

GUITAR – N/C – JAZZ STANDARDS

- (1) Own choice of one or two pieces.
(2) Time limit of 10 minutes.
- J171 (\$34) Senior – Advanced**
J172 (\$32) Intermediate – Experienced
J173 (\$30) Junior – Introductory

GUITAR – COMPETITIVE – JAZZ STANDARDS

- (1) Own choice of one or two pieces.
(2) Time limit of 10 minutes.
- J181 (\$34) Senior – Advanced**
J182 (\$32) Intermediate – Experienced
J183 (\$30) Junior – Introductory

PIANO – N/C – JAZZ STANDARDS

- (1) Own choice.
(2) The playing of repeated sections in music is optional, but encouraged.
- J191 (\$34) Senior – Advanced**
J192 (\$32) Intermediate – Experienced
J193 (\$30) Junior – Introductory

PIANO – COMPETITIVE – JAZZ STANDARDS

- (1) Own choice.
(2) The playing of repeated sections in music is optional, but encouraged.
- J201 (\$34) Senior – Advanced**
J202 (\$32) Intermediate – Experienced
J203 (\$30) Junior – Introductory

PIANO – N/C – RAGTIME

- (1) Own choice.
(2) The playing of repeated sections in music is optional, but encouraged.
- J211 (\$34) Senior – Advanced**
J212 (\$32) Intermediate – Experienced
J213 (\$30) Junior – Introductory

PIANO – COMPETITIVE – RAGTIME

- (1) Own choice.
(2) The playing of repeated sections in music is optional, but encouraged.
- J221 (\$34) Senior – Advanced**
J222 (\$32) Intermediate – Experienced
J223 (\$30) Junior – Introductory

Festival Venues

E.L. Fox Auditorium

Guelph Youth Music Centre

Harcourt Memorial United Church

St. George's Anglican Church

Three Willows United Church



45th Annual Highlights of the Festival Concert & Awards Ceremony

Saturday, May 9 - 7:00PM

St. George's Anglican Church

\$20 – Adults / \$10 – Students / \$5 – 12 & Under