



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 GYMC 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 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

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.

SPEECH ARTS

- (i) All participants are subject to the GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS of the Festival. Please read them all.
- (ii) Most Speech Arts classes are COMPETITIVE. Performers will receive an adjudication, marks, placement, and appropriate ribbons and will be eligible for scholarship consideration and Provincial Finalist designation.
- (iii) Choral Speaking classes are AWARD TO STANDARD (A/S). Each group will receive an adjudication, a placement according to the standard achieved, and the appropriate ribbons. See RULE 38(b).
- (iv) NON-COMPETITIVE status may be requested on the Entry Form. The performer will receive an adjudication and be eligible for scholarship consideration and Provincial Finalist designation, but will NOT receive marks or placement.
- (v) All selections must be performed from memory with the exception of Sacred Reading and Poetry Reading.
- (vi) Participants may choose excerpts in English or French in any Speech Arts class, but must indicate their language of choice at the time of registration.
- (vii) It is the responsibility of the performer to provide the adjudicator with a LEGAL COPY of the excerpt 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).
- (viii) The adjudicator may choose 3 performers at each level for ages 6 to Adult to proceed to the PROVINCIAL FINALS. All selected performers must refer to and be governed by the rules and regulations of the current Syllabus of the Ontario Music Festivals Association and the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals. Visit omfa.ca. See RULES 43 - 45.

Speech Arts Classes

POETRY & PROSE

All poetry and prose selections are Own Choice and can be taken from published sources or be the candidate's own composition. Memorization is required unless otherwise stated. Selections may be either French or English. Time limit of 5 minutes.

LYRIC POETRY

A short unified poem expressing the poet's own experience and emotion.

- SP101 (\$34) Open
- SP102 (\$34) 18 & Under
- SP103 (\$32) 16 & Under
- SP104 (\$32) 14 & Under
- SP105 (\$30) 12 & Under
- SP106 (\$30) 10 & Under
- SP107 (\$30) 8 & Under

NARRATIVE POETRY

A poem which tells a story and usually has dialogue; the telling of the story is the primary concern.

- SP111 (\$34) Open
- SP112 (\$34) 18 & Under
- SP113 (\$32) 16 & Under
- SP114 (\$32) 14 & Under
- SP115 (\$30) 12 & Under
- SP116 (\$30) 10 & Under
- SP117 (\$30) 8 & Under

PROSE

A recitation of an excerpt from a published novel.

- SP121 (\$34) Open
- SP122 (\$34) 18 & Under
- SP123 (\$32) 16 & Under
- SP124 (\$32) 14 & Under
- SP125 (\$30) 12 & Under
- SP126 (\$30) 10 & Under
- SP127 (\$30) 8 & Under

POETRY READING

Selections need NOT be memorized.

- SP131 (\$34) Open
- SP132 (\$34) 18 & Under
- SP133 (\$32) 16 & Under
- SP134 (\$32) 14 & Under
- SP135 (\$30) 12 & Under
- SP136 (\$30) 10 & Under
- SP137 (\$30) 8 & Under

SACRED READING

A recitation of an excerpt from the Bible (Old or New Testament, King James Version or New International Version), the Koran, Talmud or other great sacred work, using an English or French translation. Performer must bring 2 books; one for the adjudicator and an identical one from which to read.

- SP141 (\$34) Open
- SP142 (\$34) 18 & Under
- SP143 (\$32) 16 & Under
- SP144 (\$32) 14 & Under
- SP145 (\$30) 12 & Under
- SP146 (\$30) 10 & Under
- SP147 (\$30) 8 & Under

STORY TELLING

Candidates are to tell an original story written by the performer. The story may be true life or fictional.

- SP151 (\$34) Open
- SP152 (\$34) 18 & Under
- SP153 (\$32) 16 & Under
- SP154 (\$32) 14 & Under
- SP155 (\$30) 12 & Under
- SP156 (\$30) 10 & Under
- SP157 (\$30) 8 & Under

DRAMA

For all drama classes, performers select Own Choice excerpts within the specified time limits. Selections may be French or English.

DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE

Own choice of an excerpt from one selection of drama. The scene should depict one character from a published play or published anthology of individual monologues. The presentation should be preceded by a short synopsis (i.e. play, act, scene, setting).

Time limits: 3 - 7 minutes.

SP161 (\$34) Open

SP162 (\$34) 18 & Under

SP163 (\$32) 16 & Under

SP164 (\$32) 14 & Under

SP165 (\$30) 12 & Under

SOLO SCENE - SHAKESPEARE

Own choice of a solo scene from any play by Shakespeare. The presentation should be preceded by a short synopsis (i.e. play, act, setting, scene).

Time limit of 5 minutes.

SP171 (\$34) Open

SP172 (\$34) 18 & Under

SP173 (\$32) 16 & Under

SP174 (\$32) 14 & Under

SOLO SCENE - NOT SHAKESPEARE

Own choice of a solo scene from any play NOT by Shakespeare. The presentation should be preceded by a short synopsis (i.e. play, act, setting, scene).

Time limit of 5 minutes.

SP181 (\$34) Open

SP182 (\$34) 18 & Under

SP183 (\$32) 16 & Under

SP184 (\$32) 14 & Under

SOLO SCENE - CANADIAN AUTHOR

Own choice of a solo scene from any play by a Canadian author. The presentation should be preceded by a short synopsis (i.e. play, act, setting, scene). Time limit of 5 minutes.

SP191 (\$34) Open

SP192 (\$34) 18 & Under

SP193 (\$32) 16 & Under

SP194 (\$32) 14 & Under

SONNET SEQUENCE

Own choice of two sonnets not necessarily by the same author. Time limit of 5 minutes.

SP201 (\$34) Open

SP202 (\$34) 18 & Under

SP203 (\$32) 16 & Under

SP204 (\$32) 14 & Under

SOLO IMPROVISATION

Each performer will be given a topic by the adjudicator. Performers will be sent into private areas for a 5-minute preparation period. All performers will return to the performance space and be randomly chosen by the adjudicator to present their topic.

Time limits: 2 - 4 minutes.

SP211 (\$34) Open

SP212 (\$34) 18 & Under

SP213 (\$32) 16 & Under

SP214 (\$32) 14 & Under

DRAMATIC DUOLOGUE

Own choice of an excerpt from one selection of drama. The scene should depict two characters from a published play or published anthology. The presentation should be preceded by a short synopsis (i.e. play, act, scene, setting).

Time limits: 3 - 7 minutes.

SP221 (\$35) Open

SP222 (\$35) 18 & Under

SP223 (\$35) 16 & Under

SP224 (\$35) 14 & Under

DRAMATIC GROUP: 3 - 5 Members

Own choice of an excerpt from one selection of drama. The scene should depict three to five characters from a published play or published anthology. The presentation should be preceded by a short synopsis (i.e. play, act, scene, setting).

Time limits: 3 - 7 minutes.

SP231 (\$35) Open

SP232 (\$35) 18 & Under

SP233 (\$35) 16 & Under

SP234 (\$35) 14 & Under

DRAMATIC GROUP: 6 or more Members

Own choice of an excerpt from one selection of drama. The scene should depict six or more characters from a published play or published anthology. The presentation should be preceded by a short synopsis (i.e. play, act, scene, setting).

Time limits: 3 - 7 minutes.

SP241 (\$35) Open

SP242 (\$35) 18 & Under

SP243 (\$35) 16 & Under

SP244 (\$35) 14 & Under

GROUP IMPROVISATION

- 2 or more Members

Each group will be given a topic by the adjudicator. Performers will be sent into private areas for a 5-minute preparation period. All performers will return to the performance space and be randomly chosen by the adjudicator to present their topic.

Time limits: 2 - 4 minutes.

SP251 (\$35) Open

SP252 (\$35) 18 & Under

SP253 (\$35) 16 & Under

SP254 (\$35) 14 & Under

PUBLIC SPEAKING

PREPARED SPEECHES

Competitors will have prepared, learned and delivered a speech of not less than 3 or more than 5 minutes in length. Note cards are acceptable, but more consideration will be given to candidates who do not use cards. The speech must be original, written by the competitor and handed to the adjudicator prior to presentation.

SP261 (\$34) Open

SP262 (\$34) 18 & Under

SP263 (\$32) 16 & Under

SP264 (\$32) 14 & Under

SP265 (\$30) 12 & Under

CHORAL SPEAKING

All Choral Speaking classes are Award to Standard. Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit ribbons will be awarded based on the standard achieved. Own Choice of two contrasting pieces appropriate to the age and maturity of the participants. Selections may be in English or French. Time limit of 20 minutes.

SCHOOL GROUPS - A/S

May be individual classes or combined classes within the grade ranges.

SP291 (\$50) Grades 9 - 12

SP292 (\$45) Grades 7 - 8

SP293 (\$45) Grades 4 - 6

SP294 (\$40) Grades 1 - 3

SP295 (\$40) Kindergarten

COMMUNITY GROUPS - A/S

SP301 (\$50) Open

SP302 (\$50) Adult

SP303 (\$50) 18 & Under

SP304 (\$50) 16 & Under

SP305 (\$45) 14 & Under

SP306 (\$45) 12 & Under

SP307 (\$40) 10 & Under

SP308 (\$40) 8 & Under

SP309 (\$50) Any Age Combination

IMPROMPTU SPEECHES

The adjudicator will assign topics at the competition. There will be 5 minutes of preparation time, with all competitors in the class preparing at the same time. 3 minutes is allowed for delivery.

SP271 (\$34) Open

SP272 (\$34) 18 & Under

SP273 (\$32) 16 & Under

SP274 (\$32) 14 & Under

SP275 (\$30) 12 & Under

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECHES

This is a carefully prepared speech on a topic chosen by the competitor. Upon delivery, the speech cannot be read, and must not sound memorized. Cue notes are acceptable, but must be very brief. The speech outline is to be submitted to the adjudicator prior to delivery.

SP281 (\$34) Open

SP282 (\$34) 18 & Under

SP283 (\$32) 16 & Under

SP284 (\$32) 14 & Under

SP285 (\$30) 12 & Under

CHURCH GROUPS - A/S

SP311 (\$50) Open

SP312 (\$50) Adult

SP313 (\$50) 18 & Under

SP314 (\$50) 16 & Under

SP315 (\$45) 14 & Under

SP316 (\$45) 12 & Under

SP317 (\$40) 10 & Under

SP318 (\$40) 8 & Under

SP319 (\$50) Any Age Combination

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