

# PREAMBLE

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## REGISTRATION OPENS ONLINE:

**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024** - You are encouraged to register early to avoid the last-minute rush.

## 2024 REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

**January 22** – Studio Dance

**February 7** – Classical Guitar, Composition, Piano, Speech, Strings, Voice – Classical and Musical Theatre

**February 14** – Brass, Choral, Ethnic Dance, Fiddle, Woodwinds, School Bands and School Orchestras

**February 28** – School Dance

## ROBERTO AND MARY WOOD SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT: TBD 2024

The Syllabus is revised each year, so please read the Preamble, Rules & Procedures, as well as the specific Section(s) in which you are registering.

Always refer to the Rules and Procedures and Syllabus documents when completing the online registration.

The Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival (the “Festival”) is strongly committed to the philosophy that performing in classes is an opportunity to learn and to pursue excellence, and for students to be a supportive and appreciative audience for each other. In keeping with this philosophy, Placement Certificates are not awarded for classes, and marks are not publicly announced; however, the Adjudicator may maintain a private record. Each participant or group receives a written adjudication and the Adjudicator will make oral remarks. The responsibility of selecting award recipients, Provincial/National Festival representatives, and performers at the Highlights concerts rests solely with the Adjudicator.

The unauthorized use of cameras (flash and non-flash), cell phones, and recording equipment during adjudicated sessions and ALL performances is prohibited. If time allows and with the permission of the Section Head, photographs may be taken at the end of the adjudicated class after the Adjudicator has ended that class, and, at the section's final concert at designated times (not during performances) specified by the Section Head.

## **PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES FOR FESTIVAL 2024**

**(Note: This is not a complete list of *all* changes; be sure to read both the Syllabus and the general Rules and Procedures)**

- The Provincial Festival (PABC) has lowered the maximum age for competitors in all music and speech classes to **22 years of age**. That means if you are 23 or older, you will not qualify to be recommended for Provincial competition.
- The Provincial Festival (PABC) has lowered the maximum age for Level III dancers to **18 years of age**. The Provincial Excellence class remains at 20 years of age.
- **The National Festival (FCMF)** has changed the name of the Recorded Stream to Ensemble Stream.
- Most of the Highlights Concerts and Roberto and Mary Wood Scholarship Concert will again be held in the Phillip T. Young Recital Hall (PTY) at the University of Victoria.

The Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival Association (“GVPAFA”) is a non-profit, BC incorporated society and a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. It is volunteer-based and managed by an elected Board of Directors. The Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival (the “Festival”) is supported by approximately 300 volunteers during the six weeks of classes, concerts and special competitions.

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## **FESTIVAL BOUNDARIES**

The Festival is an “open” festival and accepts registrations from anyone inside or outside the Festival Boundaries.

However, for purposes of eligibility to be recommended to:

- (1) represent the Festival at the Provincial or National Festivals; or
- (2) be a candidate to compete in the Roberto & Mary Wood Scholarship Competition

The candidate must reside or study within the geographic boundaries of the Festival which are:

Greater Victoria and the Western Communities and all other municipalities in the Capital Regional District – this includes the Southern Gulf Islands, the Juan de Fuca Electoral area, Port Renfrew to the east, and Malahat to the north (4389 Island Highway is the last address on the northern boundary of the CRD). In the event a suitable candidate to the Provincial and/or National Festivals is not found from within the GVPAF boundaries, a candidate from outside the boundaries may be recommended.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival Association is a volunteer-based organization. We are dedicated to working with performing arts educators to develop artistic skills and a love of the performing arts for all ages and skill levels in music, dance and speech arts. Our annual community Festival provides reputable professionals who foster inclusion, education and performance opportunity during adjudicated sessions. We celebrate participation, achievement and excellence through a series of special concerts and an awards program.

## **MANAGEMENT**

The Festival is under the management of the Board of Directors. Questions not dealt with in these rules should be referred to the Board through the President, and the decisions of the Board will be final and binding.

# **RULES AND PROCEDURES**

## **COPYRIGHT**

The use of photocopies of copyright music that is not in the public domain (i.e. 50 years elapsing since the composer's death or date of copyright noted on the music) is prohibited by Federal Law without the written permission of the owner of copyright (i.e. the publisher of the edition that you want to photocopy), or the composer of an unpublished work. Therefore, photocopies of music selections used by performers and accompanists will not be accepted during the Festival unless accompanied by a letter from the owner of copyright authorizing permission to reproduce the copyright music. Material from the internet must show evidence of copyright and proof of purchase, or proof of public domain. Music downloaded from [imslp.org](http://imslp.org) is permitted. Please include the full URL of the work being performed on the first page of all parts and copies being used.

In other words, **originals must be used by performers or accompanists, or have authorized permission. This applies to both live and recorded performances.**

## **COMPLAINTS**

Complaints, concerns and/or protests must be made in writing, signed and directed to the Board through the President, and submitted before the final day of Festival. Complaints must not be directed to the Adjudicator(s).

## **REFUND REQUESTS OF REGISTRATION FEES**

**No refund of fees will be made except by decision of the Festival Board under exceptional circumstances.** A request must be made in writing and with early notice.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. Please turn off all cell or smart phones, electronic watches etc.
2. **The unauthorized use of cameras (flash and non-flash), including mobile phones, and recording equipment during ALL performances is prohibited. If time allows, the Section Head may grant permission for photographs to be taken. This would be at a designated time specified by the Section Head, and at the section's final concert at designated times (not during performances).**
3. Participants, teachers and parents are requested to refrain from conversation with the Adjudicator and/or Jurists before, during and after any performance. Such conversations may jeopardize the perception of an adjudicator's impartiality.
4. Participants are expected to dress neatly and tastefully in a manner appropriate to their age, and to avoid clothing or jewelry that distracts from their performance.
5. Please refrain from wearing scented products.

## **APPOINTMENT OF SECTION HEADS**

It is Festival policy that Section Heads should not have children or students in the Section that they lead. However, as qualified volunteers are often difficult to find, this policy occasionally needs to be modified. If a Section Head is appointed who has a student or child in their Section, they are responsible to appoint a Co-Section Head or "Section Leader" for the area of perceived conflict. These appointed leaders will deal with the public and with the Adjudicator in the classes and attend any meetings with the Adjudicators. Appointed members of the Board of Directors will attend meetings as required.

## **ELIGIBILITY - DEFINITIONS**

1. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, all participation shall be restricted to amateurs. An "amateur" is defined as a performing arts student or any person whose principal source of livelihood is not obtained from the practice of performing arts or from solo performances in the particular category in which he or she is competing. Those eligible students of the performing arts who teach for the purpose of applying the money so earned for the furtherance of their education may participate.

2. Conductors may be either professional or amateur. Conductors may conduct any number of organizations but must not sing with their choral group or play with their instrumental group.
3. Participants who would otherwise not be considered an amateur [see 1. above], such as teachers or other professionals, but who would like to pursue performance and feedback from an adjudicator are welcome to register in the appropriate Adult or Piano II class(es) and receive an adjudication. This applies to Brass and Percussion, Classical Guitar, Piano, Speech and Dramatic Arts, Strings, Voice, and Woodwinds.
4. All classes in the Festival are open to all participants regardless of place of residence. **However, to be eligible to be recommended for provincial or national representation, or to be a candidate to compete in the Roberto and Mary Wood Scholarship Concert, participants must reside or study within the Festival's geographic areas** (see "Festival Boundaries"). In the event a suitable candidate to the Provincial and/or National Festivals is not found from within the GVPF boundaries, a candidate from outside the boundaries may be recommended. Candidates for the Roberto and Mary Wood Scholarship Award must be residing or studying within the Festival boundaries. (See "Festival Boundaries")
5. Where an age limit is set, a participant cannot be older than the age limit specified as of December 31, 2023. However, a participant can be younger than the specified age.
6. Where age groups are specified, such as "under 11 years", or where stages of musical progression are specified, such as Junior, Intermediate, or Senior, or where grade/level progression is specified, participants may enter only one category within each section of the Festival. This restriction does not necessarily apply to all Ensembles (the appropriate category may be the average age of the performers. Do not round up.) – please see individual Section information. This restriction does not apply to ensemble classes designated "for adjudication only" or to some solo classes designated "for adjudication only". See individual Sections for further guidelines.
7. Substitutes within groups of two or more will not be allowed except with the approval of the Section Head.
8. Participants over the age of 23 years as of December 31, 2023 should, in general, register in Adult or Novice classes (except Voice). Unless there is an intent to participate in the National Festival, participants over the age of 23 years (except Voice) perform "for adjudication only" and are ineligible for awards. The exceptions to the awards are **Ethnic Dance** and the **Oliver Schroer Spirit Award** in the Fiddle Section, which can be awarded to performers of any age. Participants over the age of 22 are ineligible for recommendation to the Provincial Festival.

## PERFORMANCE AND ADJUDICATION PROCESS

1. Venues and/or pianos therein may not be used for practice or rehearsal during the Festival.
2. It is the responsibility of the performer to provide an accompanist.
3. In all Sections, the accompanying instrument is a piano. The exceptions are Ethnic Dance, Fiddle and Percussion.
4. **Time limits for performance must be adhered to.** This policy is intended to maintain a level playing field and for students' protection against any objections. In addition, ignoring this principle has serious implications for the adjudicator's time, and may inconvenience other participants in that session. Exceeding maximum performance times may result in a student being ineligible for an award.
5. Participants cannot extend playing time by paying a class fee twice.
6. In classes where any of the performed pieces are the participant's own choice, originals of the music must be provided to Festival. Participants must make sure the music is labeled with their name and selection to be performed. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.
7. Participants must provide the Adjudicator with music that is reasonably clear of teachers' notations.
8. Participants must number the first bar of each line to help the Adjudicator in making references to the music.
9. Participants can register only once in any class, with the exception of the Composition section, where a registrant may enter multiple times in the same class, paying the fee for each time entered.
10. Selections/repertoire/dances may be used in one class only, and that selection cannot be performed in another Section. An entry in Composition may, however, be performed in the appropriate music section as well.
11. No participant may perform any selection which he or she has performed in any previous year in the same Section. Groups with different members are exempt from this requirement.

12. Except where specified, memorization of music is not required.
13. A chord may be given on the piano at the beginning of each piece of unaccompanied music.
14. Participants should take the time to clearly announce the title and composer of their selection, as repertoire is not included in the Festival Program.
15. To encourage participation in Chamber Ensemble classes, any change in the players of an ensemble will be considered to have created a unique ensemble, so that with a change of even one player, a different ensemble is created and may enter any class as a new registrant.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIAL CONCERTS

Those chosen by the adjudicators to represent the local Festival at the Provincial and National competition levels may be requested to perform in their respective discipline's Highlights Concert. Other outstanding performers chosen by the adjudicator may also be asked to appear in special concerts.

## AWARDS AND TROPHIES

Awards are subject to change from year to year and award donors may need to be consulted regarding the allocation of their funds when circumstances warrant (i.e. no recipient recommended by the Adjudicator; proposed recipient ineligible, etc.). **We are grateful for any donations received after February 1 in a current Festival year, but these awards may not be designated in that current year.** All award recipients are chosen at the sole discretion of the Adjudicator(s). A panel consisting of a current member of the Board of Directors and the Section Head is available to the Adjudicator(s) for questions of eligibility should they arise.

Please refer to individual Sections for further information regarding eligibility of awards. Some Sections may require entry in two or three solo classes to qualify for awards.

**ENSEMBLES:** For the purpose of awards and Provincial and National consideration, participants in ensemble and duet classes are NOT required to adhere to the 'two solo class' requirement.

Adjudicator's choice awards MAY be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicators for exceptional individual performances by participants who have not met the two class minimum.

Participants over the age of 23 years as of December 31, 2023 should, in general, register in Adult or Novice classes (except Voice). These participants perform "for adjudication only" and are ineligible for awards. Participants over the age of 22 are ineligible for recommendation to the Provincial Festival. The exceptions to the awards are **Ethnic Dance** and the **Oliver Schroer Spirit Award** in the Fiddle Section, which can be awarded to performers of any age, and those eligible participants wishing to pursue a recommendation to the National Festival Qualifying Round.

In order to be recommended to the Provincial or National Festivals in a solo category, a participant must have entered at least TWO solo classes. Participants are advised to read the rules pertaining to their discipline as there may be further requirements for provincial participation.

The GVPFAFA and its donors provide awards to encourage and assist worthy entrants in their pursuit of artistic studies. To merit these awards, participants must reach a standard of accomplishment and demonstrate a record of achievement satisfactory to the Adjudicators. All such awards shall be under the complete jurisdiction of the GVPFAFA.

### One-Time Awards and Trophies

The following major awards may be won only once by any performer:

- The Roberto and Mary Wood Scholarship (see Note below)
- The Ethel James Award (Rose Bowl) and accompanying Victoria Musical Arts Society Bursary (Voice – Classical)

## **Roberto and Mary Wood Scholarship**

The Roberto and Mary Wood Scholarship will be available each year to an individual classical voice or instrumental performer in the Festival. Roberto and Mary Wood directed a considerable part of their estate to the establishment of this scholarship administered by the GVPAFA. The intent and spirit of the scholarship is that it should be large enough to make a significant difference for one very deserving student. The amount of the award is determined from year to year. It is understood that the money will be used for tuition and related expenses in the pursuit of further musical education. Candidates may be chosen from each of the following disciplines: Brass, Classical Guitar, Piano, Strings, Classical Voice and Woodwinds. The Adjudicators for each of these six disciplines will be given the guidelines, criteria and the philosophy of the Roberto and Mary Wood Scholarship and will be asked to recommend one candidate (a second may be considered in exceptional circumstances) at the Senior level to perform in the Scholarship concert. **The candidates must be residing or studying within the Festival boundaries (See “Festival Boundaries”), be fifteen (15) years or older as of December 31, 2023, have entered at least two solo classes in the Festival in the discipline for which they are recommended, and cannot have won the Scholarship before.** If, in a given year, no candidate is judged to warrant the Scholarship, no award will be made in that year.

## **PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL FESTIVALS**

Of the participants who perform at the Festival, some are chosen to represent Victoria as delegates at the Provincial and National Festivals.

### **Provincial Level Classes**

The Provincial Festival supports competitions in brass, classical guitar, piano, strings, voice, woodwinds, choirs, ensembles, speech arts, ballet, modern and stage dance. Competitions are at the Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels. These levels **may not** be the same as at the local Festival. **Note that the upper age limit for ‘Senior’ and ‘Provincial Excellence’ level is 22 years and under (Please see individual section).**

The rules for this Festival are in the Provincial Syllabus at [www.bcprovincials.com](http://www.bcprovincials.com).

### **Canada West Festival**

Performing Arts BC, the Alberta Music Festival Association and the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association are now part of a new Tri-Province Festival for Music and Speech Arts – 2022 was the first year. The festival has 3 levels of competition: 13 and under, 17 and under, and 22 and under. In most classes, provinces will be able to send 2 or 3 competitors. A recorded Choral competition is also included. BC participants in this Festival will be chosen by the adjudicators from performances at the BC Provincial Festival. For more information, please see the syllabus at [www.bcprovincials.com/canada-west-festival.aspx](http://www.bcprovincials.com/canada-west-festival.aspx)

### **National Level Classes**

Effective December 21, 2020, GVPAFA is now affiliated with the National Festival (FCMF) through a Local Stream Membership. Affiliation through this new Local Stream membership level provides GVPAFA registrants an opportunity to participate in a Local Stream Qualifying Round which allows for recommendation and advancement to the National Music Festival. This virtual competition will be hosted by FCMF, and competitors will be adjudicated by different adjudicators than the FCMF National Music Festival. The FCMF Local Stream Qualifying Round offers placement recognition with no award monies. Competitors will receive written adjudications.

Eligible competitors for recommendation by our local discipline adjudicator:

- Are soloists or ensembles who meet the age and repertoire requirements for the class entered, as outlined in the FCMF National Music Festival Syllabus [www.fcmf.org/syllabus/](http://www.fcmf.org/syllabus/)
- Are non-professional musicians
- Are Canadian citizens, or live or study in the province of the local festival they are recommended from
- Reside or study within the GVPAFA boundaries (See “Festival Boundaries”)

Competitors from the Local Stream Qualifying Round:

- Will be referred to as Local Stream competitors, or finalists, depending on the context
- Will have the same status as competitors recommended from their provincial music festival
- Are eligible for placement, award monies, and any other prizes that may be offered

- Are responsible for all entry fees and travel expenses for themselves, and their accompanist, if applicable
- Participants must enter at least two solo classes in order to be eligible for recommendation to the National Festival. The adjudicator will consider the number of classes entered, display of knowledge of various styles of music, and standard of accomplishment when making recommendations. **CLASSICAL VOICE:** The Adult Voice Class, with three selections, satisfies this requirement. The selections chosen must meet the requirements of the comparable Senior Level Classes. **ENSEMBLES:** for National consideration, participants in ensemble classes are NOT required to adhere to the 'two solo class' requirement.
- There are 5 Streams available for participation:
  - Emerging Artist Stream – Advanced repertoire – 30 years and under
  - Developing Artist Stream – Intermediate level repertoire (grades 8-10) – 18 years and under
  - Non-Competitive Education Stream – Junior level repertoire (grades 4-7) – 18 years and under (14 and under for Vocal and Musical Theatre sections)
  - Recorded Stream – Choral, Instrumental Ensemble (Chamber; Band; Orchestra)
  - Composition Stream – Advanced, Intermediate and Junior (non-competitive)

Please refer to the [FCMF Syllabus](#) for classes available in 2024.