



Highwood Lions Music Festival Local Rules & Guidelines

General Rules

- Entries must follow the 2026 Alberta Music Festival Association Syllabus found [HERE](#).
- HLMF follows the rules in the AMFA syllabus. Contact the festival administrator if you have any questions or concerns.
- The age of a competitor is established on December 31, 2025.
- Entries received after January 31 will be subject to a \$25 fee per class. Entries will NOT be accepted after February 7.
- Entry fees are non-refundable. If a performer needs to withdraw from a class, please email the festival administrator so that they can inform the adjudicator and volunteers.
- Performance times cannot be rescheduled. Participants are advised to check the 'tentative schedule' on the festival website to find out what days their classes will likely take place.
- If a solo or small ensemble performer is unable to perform the piece they originally entered, no substitutions of pieces or performers are allowed.
- Small group ensembles are encouraged to register under a group name and not individual names.
- Piano performers must enter EITHER Piano by Age or Piano by Grade. They may not enter classes in both categories.
- A performer may enter only once in each class.
- The class number and piece may not be changed once the late entry deadline (February 7) has passed.
- Participants must arrive at the venue 15 minutes prior to their class start time. Late arrival may result in being turned away for performance.
- The time and location of classes as well as performance order is scheduled at the discretion of the Highwood Lions Music Festival.
- For performance purposes, the Festival team has the right to combine or split classes into groups as needed.
- A warm up room at the venue will NOT be provided to solo performers. Choir and band entries will be shown to an area where they leave their belongings and warm-up.
- Protests must be submitted in writing to help@highwoodmusicfestival.com with a \$50 fee sent by e-transfer to treasurer@highwoodmusicfestival.com. The protest will be evaluated by the festival board. If the protest is deemed valid, the

\$50 fee will be returned. If it is deemed invalid, the fee will be added to the festival's scholarship fund.

Photocopies & Copyright

- Photocopies will not be accepted for use in the festival.
- All performers must supply a licensed and published copy of their selection for the adjudicator to use. If they are not performing from memory they will need a second original copy (not photocopied) for themselves.
- Printed copies that have been purchased from a website will be accepted if they include a receipt stating that they were legally purchased by the entrant (or entrants parent or teacher).
- Proof that selections are from the public domain will be accepted.

Accompaniment

- In accordance with the rules set by AMFA, the Highwood Lions Music Festival will follow these guidelines:
 - Solo classes: Accompaniment is limited to one non-electronic instrument unless specified differently in the score.
 - Contemporary Vocal Discipline: electronic instruments are permitted, but only a piano is provided by the festival. Recorded accompaniment is permitted but must be provided by the participant. If recorded accompaniment is to be used, the [festival director](#) must be notified at least 10 days before the performance.
 - Recorded Accompaniments: Recorded accompaniment is only permitted in Contemporary Vocals, Percussion & Music Composition.

Adjudication

- Recording of the adjudicator is strictly prohibited.
- Adjudicators will make all decisions regarding marks, awards and provincial recommendations. Their decisions are final and the Highwood Lions Music Festival is not responsible for their choices.
- At no time may an entrant, parent, teacher or audience member converse with the adjudicator. Doing so may result in disqualification from eligibility for awards.
- Students will receive written and verbal adjudication. Whether the verbal adjudication is addressed to individual participants or to the entire group is at the discretion of the adjudicator.
- The Highwood Lions Music Festival uses the following marking categories
 - 90+: Superior- gold seal
 - 85-89: Distinction- silver seal
 - 80-84: Honours- red seal
 - 70-79: Merit- no seal

Memorization

- Memorization is encouraged but not required for participation. Students that perform with their music will still receive full verbal and written adjudication but will not be eligible for awards or provincial recommendations.
 - Exception: Students performing in Music Composition may use their scores.

Award Eligibility and Distribution

- The Highwood Lions Music Festival will be open to any non-professional musician, regardless of place of residence. Only those students who reside (or whose current teacher resides) within the boundaries of the Highwood Lions Music Festival (see website for details) are eligible to win awards (Adjudicator's Showcase, Provincial Recommendation & Scholarships).
- Participants must perform at least two pieces (in different classes or multiple pieces in a concert or recital class) from memory to be eligible for awards.
EXCEPTION: Musical Theatre, String & Keyboard Sonata, Piano Duet, Contemporary Vocal, and Music Composition participants need only perform one piece from memory to be eligible.
- For levelled categories, performers cannot have performed in the same grade level the prior year to be eligible for awards. The exception to this rule is that students may enter 1 challenge piece at one level higher each year and still be eligible for awards. (Example: If a student performed grade 4 pieces in 2025, they must enter grade 5 pieces for award consideration in 2026. They may also enter one (1) grade 6 piece as a 'challenge' piece but it would not be eligible for provincials).
- Participants must have performed from memory to be eligible for awards.
- Adjudicator decisions regarding marks, awards and provincial recommendations are final.
- If an adjudicator feels the need to recognize a specific student and there are not enough specified awards, the HLMF board may establish an extra award per their recommendation.
- An entrant may receive more than one award if so deemed by the adjudicator.
- If an adjudicator deems no one suitable for a specific award, it will not be awarded.
- All award winners will be notified by email by March 28, 2026. Award winners will be invited to attend the 'Adjudicator's Showcase' to receive their award. Please ensure that your email address is correct in your festival profile.

Performance Etiquette and Guidelines

- There is to be no talking, entering or leaving during the performances or adjudications.
- Recording a performance is permitted as long as it is only your child (no recording other students or the adjudicator).

- No food or drink is allowed in the performance area except for bottled water.
- Performers are encouraged to dress semi-formally.
- Performers must stay for the entirety of their group's performances AND adjudication (between 45 and 75 minutes long).