



Welcome to the Highwood Lions Music Festival!

Thank you for registering! We are so glad you will be joining us this season. Please feel free to peruse the following Welcome Manual to ensure that you have all the information you need in order to feel comfortable and prepared.

SCHEDULING & REGISTRATION CHANGES

How does the festival schedule work? When will I know when my class is scheduled?

The Festival schedule is quite complex and is determined based on many moving parts. The basis for the schedule is the general festival schedule which is typically released here on our website homepage and on our social media by November or December. This general schedule outlines which categories are on which days, so that participants and teachers can know ahead of time which day(s) they may be playing. The fine tuning of the final schedule does not happen until after late registration closes after the first week of February, and takes a couple of weeks to finalize, as we have 3 weeks of classes and over 1000 participants to coordinate! When the finalized schedule is released, it will be posted on this website on our registration and schedules page as well as on social media.

Can I make changes to my schedule if the date/time given does not work for me?

Due to the complex nature of scheduling such a large event, we cannot accommodate schedule changes or requests. Please be aware that if the general schedule states that - for example - March 3rd and 4th are the dates for your category (ie: Strings), you must be prepared to be scheduled at any time on those dates. The only exceptions for accepting scheduling requests are for school groups (choral etc) and for musicians requiring specialized accompaniment - in these cases, forward notice is required (prior to registration deadline) or else we may not be able to accommodate.

Can I make changes to my registration(s) after registration has closed?

You will not be able to make the changes yourself once registration deadline has closed (but up until that point you can). If you must make a change after deadline, you will have to contact our tech support @ hlmf.helpdesk@gmail.com . We can easily make simple changes, such as piece length update, etc. If the change necessitates an entire class change (whether due to a mistaken registration or a changed mind), it may not be possible. We will try to accommodate if possible, but please note that this is not always possible and that a refund cannot be given. It is up to the registrant or teacher to ensure that the registration is done correctly before deadline.

AT THE FESTIVAL

What should I expect when I arrive to perform at the festival?

When you arrive at the festival (at the High River United Church) 15 minutes prior to your scheduled time, you will be greeted by our volunteers who will take your name and your (original) music as you await your performance time.

If you need to warm up, please ask the volunteers to direct you to our warm-up space. Warm-up space is limited, so please only take the time you need to do a brief warm-up so that others may also use the space.

Once the doors are open for your performance time, you will take your seat among the other participants. A volunteer will announce the opening of the session, will introduce the adjudicator, and will call for the first performer (as the order as listed in the program). After you perform your piece, you will take a bow. Some adjudicators will take a few minutes to work with each performer right after his/her piece, others will listen to all pieces before giving feedback to everyone at the end. The adjudicator or volunteer running the session will let you know if you should stay on stage right after your performance or if you should take your seat among the other performers to await later adjudication. Most sessions last an hour (sometimes 15 minutes more or less), as indicated in the program. All performers in a session are to stay the entire block to listen to all other performers in their session. Please note that no filming is allowed during performances.

How can I prepare for the festival?

Practice, practice, practice! Work with your teacher to be ready in time for your performance date, to ensure that you are putting your best work in front of your adjudicators, so that their feedback is truly pertinent to your level of ability!

Also, you will need to ensure that you have the ORIGINAL MUSIC with you at the festival. No photocopies allowed. If your music was purchased online and printed, then you must provide a proof of purchase with your printed sheet to validate that it is not a photocopy of an unauthorized piece.

What is the Festival showcase?

The Festival Showcase is a public and celebratory performance at the very end of the festival. Adjudicators will select their favourite performances and selected participants will be contacted soon after to confirm their participation in the Showcase. This event features a wide variety of categories, instruments, ages and levels of ability - something of a variety show. It is considered an honour to be selected to play in the Showcase!

What can I get out of participating in the festival?

Besides having a concrete reason to work towards a personal goal, participants can also benefit from the professional adjudication and feedback provided in each session. Some students may also be selected for our Festival Showcase (see above) and/or to represent the Foothills at the Provincial level. We also award a variety of plaques, certificates and scholarships to students in a variety of categories, see below for details.

MARKS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Marks & Seals:

All students will be given a mark by their adjudicator at session-end. This mark will be reflected by a seal (sticker) on a participation certificate. Marks are not announced publicly.

GOLD SEAL = Distinction: 90 and over

RED SEAL = Honours: 80-89

NO SEAL = Merit: 79 and under

Provincial Recommendations.

Provincial Recommendations are given to very select students who have high marks in at least two classes (except Musical Theatre), and who qualify based on AMFA rules. Students who receive a Provincial Recommendation will be recognized with a certificate at our Festival Showcase and will have their entry fee to the Provincial Festival paid for.

Scholarship of Excellence.

A Scholarship of Excellence is awarded to students with the highest mark or excellence in one entry, but must have performed in at least two classes – doesn't have to be the same discipline (could be a Provincial Qualifier). Students who receive a Scholarship of Excellence will be recognized with a certificate at our Festival Showcase, along with a cheque for \$50 (junior students) or \$100 (senior students).

Most Promising

Most Promising awards are given to students who are recognized by their adjudicators as being particularly teachable or engaged in the workshop experience. These students may also have shown excellence, but only had one entry and may not have qualified for a Scholarship of Excellence as a result. Students who receive a Most Promising award will be recognized with a plaque/trophy at our Festival Showcase.

Adjudicators Showcase Selection:

Adjudicators will select their favourite performances and selected participants will be contacted to confirm their participation in the Showcase. Students who perform in the Adjudicator's Showcase will be recognized with a certificate as well.

A FEW LAST QUESTIONS....

Are there opportunities to be involved in the festival aside from being a participant?

We are ALWAYS looking to add more volunteers to our roster. It takes a village to run this festival! We particularly need volunteers for the weeks of the actual festival, as door greeters and as secretaries (who assist the adjudicator in the session).

If you want to be involved in an even greater capacity and want to add your voice and expertise in a more direct way, please contact our board president at highwoodlionsmusicfest@gmail.com to find out about opportunities to serve as a board member!

Where do I find released schedules, updates and all other important information?

Go to www.highwoodmusicfestival.com and you will find everything you need to know! We also send the occasional email with important reminders, such as newly released schedules and the like. You can also find us on Facebook, where we post important updates.

Who do I contact if I need help in any way?

Email hlmf.helpdesk@gmail.com and we will be happy to help!

See you at the Festival!

