

PORT COLBORNE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



2027 COMPOSITION SYLLABUS

2027 IMPROVISATION SYLLABUS

**2027 PIANO SOLO WITH
ACCOMPANIMENT SYLLABUS**

MAY 3 – 7, 2027

ENTRIES CLOSE JANUARY 31, 2027

“Every day we spend without learning something is a day lost” –Beethoven

RULES & PROTOCOL FOR COMPOSITION CLASSES

Composition & Instrumentation

- **Style & Medium:** Student compositions may be written in any musical style. Accepted instrumentation includes any combination of voice, solo instruments, and piano.
- **Entry Limits:** Students are permitted to enter **one (1) composition class only**.
- **Competition Format:** All music composition classes are **competitive**.

Performance Requirements

- **Performer Expectations:** Student composers are expected to perform their own compositions.
- **Vocal & Piano Collaborations:** For compositions involving piano and voice, another performer may be enlisted to assist with either the vocal or piano part.
- **Memorization:** Performance memorization is **not required**.

Adjudicator Submission

- **Score Copies:** A complete copy of the score **must** be provided for the adjudicator.
- **Acceptable Formats:** Submissions may be either legibly handwritten or generated electronically.

COMPOSITION CLASSES

Class #

- C1. JUNIOR COMPOSITION CLASS –
TEN (10) YEARS & UNDER – ENTRY FEE \$16.00
- C2. INTERMEDIATE COMPOSITION CLASS –
FOURTEEN (14) YEARS & UNDER – ENTRY FEE \$19.00
- C3. SENIOR COMPOSITION CLASS –
FIFTEEN (15) YEARS & OVER – ENTRY FEE \$21.00

RULES & PROTOCOL FOR IMPROVISATION CLASSES

Class Format & Level Requirements

- **Non-Competitive Format:** These classes are non-competitive and designed for students to showcase their skills in improvising or creating original arrangements.
- **Level Placement:** Students **must enter at their current level of study or one (1) grade higher.**
- **Class Limits:** Students may register for **one (1) improvisation class only.**

Melody Assignment & Preparation

- **Assigned Melody:** Participants will receive a melody in a jazz/blues style to improvise upon.
- **Pickup Timeline:** The prompt melody will be available for pickup from the Secretary's desk **one (1) day prior** to the scheduled class.
- **Independent Work:** Students must prepare their improvisation completely without any external assistance.

Performance & Evaluation

- **Time Limit:** Maximum performance time is **two (2) minutes.**
- **Arrival:** All competitors must arrive and be present **15 minutes** before their scheduled class time.
- **Adjudication:** Participants will receive an adjudication sheet only; no medals will be awarded.

IMPROVISATION CLASSES

Class #

I1. Grades 1 – 3 – ENTRY FEE \$16.00

I2. Grades 4 – 6 – ENTRY FEE \$19.00

I3. Grades 7 – 9 – ENTRY FEE \$21.00

RULES & PROTOCOL FOR PIANO SOLO WITH ACCOMPANIMENT CLASSES

RULES & PROTOCOL FOR PIANO SOLO WITH ACCOMPANIMENT CLASSES

Class Format & Level Requirements

- **Competition Format:** These are **competitive** classes.
- **Level Placement:** Competitors **must enter at their current level of study or one (1) grade higher.**
- **Class Limits:** Students may register for **one (1) Piano Solo with Accompaniment Class only.**
- **Repertoire Selection:** These are **Own Choice** classes featuring electronic accompaniment or a backing track.

Backing Tracks & Technical Setup

- **Equipment:** Students must supply their own equipment to play backing tracks, which must be fully ready to play when called upon.
- **Offline Requirement:** **No Wi-Fi is provided** on site; all accompanying tracks must be saved locally in a stored format.

Performance Guidelines & Arrival

- **Memorization:** All selections must be memorized.
- **Arrival Time:** Competitors should be present **15 minutes** prior to their scheduled class time.

Adjudicator Submissions & Scoring Penalties

- **Adjudicator Score:** Competitors must deliver an **original copy** of the selection to the Secretary before the class begins and collect it immediately afterward.
- **No-Mark Penalties:** Competitors will receive an adjudication but **NO MARK** if they:
 - Refer to sheet music during the performance.
 - Fail to provide an original copy of the sheet music for the Adjudicator.

PIANO SOLO WITH ACCOMPANIMENT CLASSES

Class #

PA1 Elementary – 12 YEARS & UNDER – ENTRY FEE \$14.00

Suggested Repertoire: “American Popular Piano” series – Repertoire Books 1 – 3
“Connections” series by Christopher Norton – Books 1 – 3

PA2 Intermediate – 15 YEARS & UNDER – ENTRY FEE \$17.00

Suggested Repertoire: “American Popular Piano” series – Repertoire Books 4 – 6
“Connections” series by Christopher Norton – Books 4 – 6

PA3 Senior – 18 YEARS & UNDER – ENTRY FEE \$19.00

Suggested Repertoire: “American Popular Piano” series – Repertoire Books 7 – 8
“Connections” series by Christopher Norton – Books 7 – 8