

**PORT COLBORNE
FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS**



2027 ELEMENTARY CHOIR SYLLABUS

April 27 – 28, 2027

AND

**2027 ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL
SYLLABUS**

April 29 – 30, 2027

ENTRIES CLOSE JANUARY 31, 2027

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

RULES & PROTOCOL FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHOIR CLASSES

Choir Composition & Conductors

- **Conductors:** Conductors may be professional or amateur adults and may direct multiple classes. Conductors **must not sing** along with the choir during competition.
- **Roster Size:** Choirs must consist of at least 10 members. In Junior/Intermediate School Choir classes, intermediate students must not outnumber junior students.
- **Class Splitting:** Overly large classes may be split at the discretion of the Festival Committee.

Accompaniment & Equipment

- **Instruments & Backing Tracks:** An acoustic piano will be provided on site. Accompaniment CDs without vocal tracks are permitted. Choir directors are responsible for their own accompaniment equipment; PCFA assumes no liability for lost or damaged equipment.
- **Festival Accompanist Services:** Official festival accompanists can be arranged for a **\$10.00 fee** (rehearsal fees may vary). Email progsecretary@pcf.ca no later than **April 15th** to request accompaniment.

Performance Guidelines & Presentation

- **Props & Costumes:** Props and costumes are prohibited unless explicitly required by the musical score (e.g., maracas). Expressional **gestures are permitted**.
- **Adjudicator Sheet Music:** For "Own Choice" classes, an original copy of the score—tagged with the choir's information—must be delivered to the Secretary prior to the class and retrieved immediately after.
- **Digital Sheet Music:** Internet sheet music is allowed only with proof of purchase, which must be submitted to the Secretary for approval alongside the entry form by **January 31st**. Incomplete entries will not be accepted.

Media & Adjudication Protocol

- **Photography & Recording:** Video recording is allowed during performances. Designated time for photo opportunities will be provided immediately following performances.
- **Adjudicator Critiques:** The adjudicator will offer a brief critique at the conclusion of each category. All choir members must remain in the competition area until the adjudicator has finished addressing every performance in their category.

AWARDS

GOLD EXCELLENCE Standard signifies that an Ensemble has achieved excellence in all facets of its performance

GOLD Standard signifies that an Ensemble is demonstrating an exceedingly high standard of musical performance.

SILVER Standard signifies an above average quality of performance with latitude for improvement.

BRONZE Standard acknowledges an average quality of performance.

A Certificate and Adjudication sheet will be given to each choir.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHOIR DIVISIONS – NO ENTRY FEE

Class #

EC1 – ELEMENTARY CHOIR – PRIMARY

This class is open to:

- Primary Choir – Grades 1 – 3
- Primary Choir – K – Grade 3
- Primary Classroom Choir
- School Choir – K to Grade 8 (The majority of students to be of Primary Grade Age)

Two (2) Contrasting Selections Required

- a) Selected Piece – “**Songs of Springtime-Dreams**” – music by Donalda Sangster, words by Norma Skillen
- b) Own Choice Selection

EC2 JUNIOR CHOIR

This class is open to:

- Junior Choir – Grades 4 – 6
- Junior Classroom Choir
- School Choir – K to Grade 8 (The majority of students to be of Junior Grade Age)

Two (2) Contrasting Selections Required

- a) Selected Piece – “**A Cold in My Nose**” by Stephen L. Lawrence
- b) Own Choice Selection

EC3 ELEMENTARY CHOIR – JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE

This class is open to:

- Junior/Intermediate Choir – Grades 4 – 8
- Intermediate Choir – Grades 7 – 8
- Intermediate Classroom Choir
- School Choir – K – Grade 8 (The majority of the students to be of Junior/Intermediate Age)

Two (2) Contrasting Selections Required

- a) Selected Piece
 - **Primarily Intermediate Choir**, please use: “**Spread Some Sunshine**” – music by Donna Amorosa arr. Allan Billingsley
 - **Intermediate Choir** (Grades 7 & 8 only), please use: “**Be a Candle of Hope**” by Becki Slagle Mayo
- b) Own Choice Selection

Copies of the selected music are available from program secretary, Linda Caldwell

Email: progsecretary@pcfa.ca

Phone: 905-834-7418

TEACHERS

Although there is NO Entry Fee, operating costs that include adjudicators, venues & custodial services have increased. Therefore, any donation your school is able to give would be appreciated.

Receipts will be issued for \$25.00 or more.

RULES & PROTOCOL FOR ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES

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Conductor & Staff Guidelines

- **Conductor Eligibility:** Conductors may be professional or amateur adults and may direct multiple classes.
- **Performance Restrictions:** Conductors **must not play or sing** with the group during competition. School staff members are strictly prohibited from participating in instrumental performances.

Equipment & Sheet Music

- **Provided Staging:** Music stands and chairs will be provided on site for school bands.
- **Director Equipment:** Directors are responsible for providing and managing all additional equipment (e.g., amplifiers, tape recorders, or accompaniment CDs without vocal/lyric tracks). PCFA assumes no liability for lost or damaged equipment.
- **Adjudicator Sheet Music:** For "Own Choice" classes, an original copy of the score—clearly tagged with band details—must be delivered to the Secretary before the class begins and collected immediately afterward.
- **Digital Sheet Music:** Internet sheet music is permitted with proof of purchase, which must be submitted to the Secretary alongside the entry form by **January 31st**. Entries lacking proof of purchase will not be accepted.

Performance & Adjudication Protocol

- **Memorization:** Performance selections do not need to be memorized.
- **Media Policy:** Video recording is permitted during these performances.
- **Adjudicator Critiques:** The adjudicator will provide a brief critique at the conclusion of each category. All ensemble members must remain in the competition area until the adjudicator completes feedback for every performance in their category.

ADDITIONAL RULES & PROTOCOL FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CONCERT DRUMLINE

(as adopted & adapted from CDA guidelines)

Instrumentation & Ensemble Composition

- **Drumline Threshold:** A competing drumline ensemble must consist of at least **51% marching percussion instruments** (marching snare drums, multi-tenor drums, bass drums, and cymbals).
- **Permitted Instrumentation:**
 - Battery percussion (snare, tenor, bass drums, and cymbals).
 - Standard stage and rhythm section electronic instruments, string bass, and guitar.
 - Single-tone, non-key sound effects (e.g., whistles, sirens, animal calls) are permitted **for effect only** and cannot be used melodically.

- **Prohibited Instruments:** Conventional wind instruments and standard string instruments (excluding string bass and guitar) are strictly prohibited.
- **Pre-Recorded Tracks:** Any pre-recorded music used during the performance must be explicitly listed on the entry form.

Stage Setup & Performance Area

- **Defined Boundaries:** PCFA will designate a clearly defined performance area. All performers, instruments, props, cables, stands, and costumes must remain completely inside this boundary for the entire performance.
- **Floor Protection:** To protect wooden competition floors, all equipment bases, feet, and stands must be properly taped or padded to prevent floor damage.
- **Concert Ensemble Positioning:** Performers in concert percussion ensembles must remain in fixed physical locations and may not change positions during the performance.

Performance Timing

- **Stage Clearance:** All non-performing personnel (instructors, directors, equipment managers) must completely exit the competition area before the performance begins.
- **Timing Start:** Official performance timing commences with the first musical note played following the ensemble's introduction.

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ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE – NO ENTRY FEE

Class #

EIE – This class is open to any combination of Primary, Junior or Intermediate participants
Own Choice – Two (2) contrasting selections required