

**PORT COLBORNE
FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS**



**2027 SECONDARY SCHOOL CHOIR
SYLLABUS**

APRIL 27 – 28, 2027

AND

**2027 SECONDARY SCHOOL BAND
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 SECONDARY SCHOOL CHOIR CLASSES

RULES, PROTOCOL & AWARDS FOR SECONDARY / ADULT CHORAL & VOCAL ENSEMBLE CLASSES

Ensemble Composition & Conductors

- **Group Size:** A **choir** must consist of at least 10 members, whereas a **vocal ensemble** must consist of 9 members or fewer.
- **Conductor Eligibility:** Conductors may be professional or amateur adults and are permitted to 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 choral performances.

Accompaniment & Sheet Music

- **Instruments & Tracks:** An acoustic piano will be provided on site. Accompaniment CDs without vocal/lyric tracks are permitted. Any pre-recorded music **must be listed on the entry form**. Directors are responsible for their own equipment; PCFA assumes no liability for lost or damaged items.
- **Festival Accompanist Services:** Official festival accompanists can be arranged for a **\$10.00 fee** (rehearsal fees may vary). Email progsecretary@pcfa.ca no later than **April 15th** to request accompaniment.
- **Adjudicator Sheet Music:** For "Own Choice" classes, an original copy of the score—tagged with group details—must be delivered to the Secretary prior to the performance and collected immediately afterward.
- **Digital Sheet Music:** Internet sheet music is permitted for choirs only (not Choral Speaking) with proof of purchase. A copy of the proof of purchase must accompany the entry form submitted by **January 31st**. Entries without proof will not be accepted.

Performance Guidelines & Adjudication

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

Award Standards

- **GOLD EXCELLENCE:** 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.

TEACHERS:

Although there is NO Entry Fee, operating costs that include adjudicators, venues & custodial services have all increased. Therefore, any donation that your school is able to give would be appreciated. Receipts will be issued for donations of \$25.00 or more.

SECONDARY SCHOOL CHOIRS – NO ENTRY FEE

Class #

SSC 1. SCHOOL CHOIR – UNDER 25 STUDENTS – OPEN CLASS

Own Choice – two (2) contrasting selections

SSC 2. SCHOOL CHOIR – OVER 25 STUDENTS – OPEN CLASS

Own Choice – two (2) contrasting selections

SSC 3. SCHOOL VOCAL ENSEMBLE – 9 STUDENTS OR LESS – OPEN CLASS

Own Choice – two (2) contrasting selections

RULES & PROTOCOL FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL BAND CLASSES

Ensemble Composition & Conductors

- **Group Size:** A choir must consist of at least 10 members, whereas a vocal ensemble must consist of 9 members or fewer.
- **Conductor Eligibility:** Conductors may be professional or amateur adults and are permitted to 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 choral performances.

Accompaniment & Sheet Music

- **Instruments & Tracks:** An acoustic piano will be provided on site. Accompaniment CDs without vocal/lyric tracks are permitted. Any pre-recorded music must be listed on the entry form. Directors are responsible for their own equipment; PCFA assumes no liability for lost or damaged items.
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ADDITIONAL RULES & PROTOCOL FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL CONCERT DRUMLINE

(as adopted & adapted from CDA guidelines)

Instrumentation & Ensemble Composition

- **Drumline Composition:** A drumline consists of marching snare drums, marching multi-tenor drums, marching bass drums, and marching cymbals. A competing ensemble must be a minimum of 51% drumline.
- **Permitted Instrumentation:** Instrumentation is limited to standard percussion battery instruments (snare, tenor, bass drums, and cymbals) and standard stage/rhythm section electronic instruments, string bass, and guitar.
- **Special Sound Effects:** Single-tone, non-keyed horns (e.g., whistles, sirens, animal calls) are permitted only when used for sound effect and may not be used in any melodic form.
- **Prohibited Instruments:** Conventional wind and string instruments (other than string bass and guitar) may NOT be used.
- **Pre-Recorded Tracks:** Any pre-recorded music used must be explicitly listed on the entry form.

Stage Setup & Performance Area

- **Defined Boundaries:** PCFA will provide a clearly defined performance area at all competitions. All performers, instruments, props, cables, stands, and costumes must remain inside the performance area for the duration of the performance.
- **Floor Protection:** To protect wooden competition floors, all equipment must be properly taped or otherwise prepared to ensure floor damage does not occur.
- **Concert Ensemble Positioning:** All concert ensemble performers must remain in their physical location and may not change positions during a performance.

Performance Timing & Clearance

- **Stage Clearance:** All non-performing personnel MUST be out of the competition area before the performance begins.
- **Timing Start:** Performance time begins with the first note played following the introduction of the selection.

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SECONDARY SCHOOL BANDS – NO ENTRY FEE

Class #

SSB 1. SECONDARY SCHOOL BAND

This class is open to:

- Junior Band – Grades 9 – 10
- Senior Band – Grades 11 – 12
- Concert Band – Open Class
- Jazz Band – Open Class
- Instrumental Ensemble – Open Class

Two (2) Contrasting Selections are Required

SSB 2. CONCERT DRUMLINE (STATIONARY)

Open Class

Two (2) Contrasting Selections are Required