



Spring 2025

ONLINE MUSIC FESTIVAL

ENSEMBLE SYLLABUS

VAYA is an affiliate festival of



\$250.00 Entry Fee includes:

- A detailed written adjudication
- A voice over audio or video adjudication of the group's performance
- Awards and an invitation to compete at MusicFest Canada for Canadian and International groups achieving 90% or higher

AWARDS SPONSOR:



ALL GROUPS:

- **UP TO THREE SELECTIONS. MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE TIME 30 MINUTES**
 - **SUBMIT VIDEO LINKS ANYTIME BEFORE MAY 15, 2025**
 - **AWARDS ANNOUNCED JUNE 1, 2025**

Evaluations are based on musical integrity. With consideration to age and experience of the participants, adjudicators' comments will include feedback about stylistic interpretation, tonal and musical elements such as intonation, dynamics, attacks, releases, articulations, blend, balance, repertoire, and instrumentation. Adjudicators' comments will reflect a total assessment of the performance selections. All comments will be intended as a guide for the continued development of the Group.

Table of Contents

Choirs & Vocal Ensembles.....	2
Instrumental Jazz Ensembles.....	2
Concert Bands or Wind Ensembles	3
Orchestras or String Orchestras	4
World Music.....	4
Percussion Ensembles	4

How to participate

- 1) Register online at vayafestivals.ca
- 2) Film a video of your performance **in one continuous take** – one video file for each selection.
- 3) Upload your recordings to your own YouTube channel as an **UNLISTED** video – so anyone with the link can view it.
- 4) Email (gm@vayafestivals.ca) a link to your video. Attach a **PDF** of your sheet music/scores and your completed entry form. **Please note: We are unable to accept Google Drive or Dropbox links. We are unable to accept any formats other than PDF.**

Choirs & Vocal Ensembles

All repertoire is 'own choice'. A group may participate in the following categories:

Concert or Chamber Choir - 10 or more singers, performing traditional concert/chamber choir repertoire, non-jazz styles.

Choral Combo - 3 to 9 singers performing traditional, non-jazz styles. N.B.: A group may not perform a given selection in more than one category.

Vocal Jazz and Contemporary Music Combo - 2 to 8 singers with or without a rhythm section accompaniment performing contemporary vocal music.

Vocal Jazz and Contemporary Music Ensemble - 9 or more singers with or without a rhythm section accompaniment performing contemporary vocal music.

Combination Choir - 9 or more performing an equal number of traditional and contemporary styles.

CLASSES OF PARTICIPATION

C101 – University or College Vocal Groups, no age restrictions.

C102 – Community Vocal Groups, no age restrictions.

C301 – Vocal Groups whose members are the maximum age of 17 years as of January 1, 2025.

C401 – Vocal Groups whose members are the maximum age of 15 years as of January 1, 2025.

C501 – Vocal Groups whose members who are the maximum age of 13 years as of January 1, 2025.

Instrumental Jazz

If your group would like to be considered for recommendation to MusicFest Canada, you will need to perform one test piece from the Musicfest Canada Instrumental Jazz Syllabus -

<https://musicfest.ca/information-ensemble-directors/jazz-syllabus/> - plus your own choice of up to two more Jazz selections, i.e. Swing, Jazz Blues, Ballads, Jazz Rock, Latin Jazz, Samba, etc. Pop material is inappropriate. It is strongly recommended that one selection be composed and/or arranged by a Canadian. The work can be published or commissioned.

A group may participate in the following categories:

Jazz Ensemble - 9 to 24 performers. "Standard instrumentation" (up to twelve brass, up to six saxophones/woodwinds, up to six rhythm) is recommended.

Jazz Combo - 2 to 8 performers (including vocalists). It is highly recommended that each member improvise.

Traditional Jazz Combo - 2 to 8 performers (including vocalists) performing jazz in the style of the early 1900s. The suggested instrumentation is tuba/string bass, cornet/trumpet, trombone, clarinet, saxophone, and rhythm.

CLASSES OF PARTICIPATION

- A 101** College or University Ensemble, no age restrictions. All members must be enrolled in the same College or University during the current academic year in course work in addition to the performance ensemble.
- A102** Organized community rehearsal group. No age or affiliation restrictions.
- A201** Organized community rehearsal group or multi school groups. Maximum age of 20 years as of January 1, 2025.
- A301** Single high school or multi high school group with a common conductor for both schools and insufficient numbers in individual schools to create a full group, subject to confirmation by the Affiliated Festival Director. Maximum age of 17 years as of January 1, 2025 or registered in Secondary/High School. All members must be full-time students as defined by the local school board.
- A302** Organized community rehearsal group or multi school groups ineligible for class A301. Maximum age of 17 years as of January 1, 2025.
- A401** Single high school or multi high school group with a common conductor for both schools and insufficient numbers in individual schools to create a full group, subject to confirmation by the Affiliated Festival Director. Maximum age of 16 years as of January 1, 2025 or registered in Grade 11. All members must be full-time students as defined by the local school board.
- A402** Organized community rehearsal group or multi school groups ineligible for class A401. Maximum age of 16 years as of January 1, 2025.
- A501** Single high school or multi high school group with a common conductor for both schools and insufficient numbers in individual schools to create a full group, subject to confirmation by the Affiliated Festival Director. Maximum age of 15 years as of January 1, 2025 or registered in Grade 10. All members must be full-time students as defined by the local school board.
- A502** Organized community rehearsal group or multi school groups ineligible for class A501. Maximum age of 15 years as of January 1, 2025.
- A601** Single school, multi high school or community groups. Maximum age of 14 years as of January 1, 2025 or registered in Grade 9.
- A701** Single school, multi high school or community groups. Maximum age of 13 years as of January 1, 2025 or registered in Grade 8.

Concert Bands or Wind Ensembles

Up to three selections, own choice. If your group would like to be considered for recommendation to MusicFest Canada, you will need to perform one test piece from the Musicfest Canada Concert Band Syllabus - <http://www.musicfest.ca/concert-band-syllabus/> - plus your own choice of up to two contrasting selections of music at the same level.

- B600** Performance of a test piece from B600 as per the MusicFest Canada Syllabus.
- B500** Performance of a test piece from B500 as per the MusicFest Canada Syllabus.
- B400** Performance of a test piece from B400 as per the MusicFest Canada Syllabus.
- B300** Performance of a test piece from B300 as per the MusicFest Canada Syllabus.
- B200** Performance of a test piece from B200 as per the MusicFest Canada Syllabus.
- B100** Performance of a test piece from B100 as per the MusicFest Canada Syllabus.

Orchestras or String Orchestras

Ensembles are required to perform a program of contrasting material and styles at a specific grade level, as determined by the director. There are no required pieces in these classes. Directors are encouraged to select high quality, original works and choose compositions by Canadian composers when appropriate. “Pop” material is inappropriate.

Orchestra – 25 or more performers on orchestral string instruments complimented by brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments.

String Orchestra– 9 or more performers on orchestral string instruments.

Chamber Ensemble – 2 to 5 performers on orchestral string instruments.

CLASSES OF PARTICIPATION

Ensembles are required to perform a program of contrasting material and styles at a specific grade level, as determined by the director. There are no required pieces in these classes.

O101 No age restrictions.

O201 Average maximum age of 21 years as of January 1, 2025.

O301 Average maximum age of 17 years as of January 1, 2025.

O401 Average maximum age of 14 years as of January 1, 2025.

World Music

For ensembles utilizing the rhythmic, harmonic, and melodic concepts from musical cultures in Latin America, West Africa, Asia and India. These include rhythmic concepts in particular from Brazil, Portugal, Cuba, Spain, and Puerto Rico. The ensembles will perform using non-Western scales, modes and/or musical inflections, and may incorporate distinctive traditional ethnic instruments, such as the kora (West African harp), the steel drum, the sitar, or the didgeridoo. There are no required pieces in these classes.

W101 No age restrictions.

W201 Ensemble members are a maximum age of 20 years as of January 1, 2025.

W301 Ensemble members are a maximum age of 17 years as of January 1, 2025.

W501 Ensemble members are a maximum age of 15 years as of January 1, 2025.

W701 Ensemble members are a maximum age of 13 years as of January 1, 2025.

Percussion Ensembles

4 or more performers of percussion instruments. There are no required pieces in these classes.

P101 No age restrictions.

P201 Ensemble members are a maximum age of 20 years as of January 1, 2025.

P301 Ensemble members are a maximum age of 17 years as of January 1, 2025 or are registered in Secondary/High School.

P401 Ensemble members are a maximum age of 15 years as of January 1, 2025.