



SPRING 2025
VAYA INTERNATIONAL
SPEECH ARTS & DRAMA FESTIVAL
SYLLABUS
ADULTS (19+ YEARS)

1. Memorization is required except for Speeches, Storytelling and Prose or Sacred reading classes.

2. Costumes and Props The festival will provide the following props: table, stool, chair, and lectern. Costuming and props are only permitted for the Drama selection and for Shakespeare classes and must be integral to the selection. Competitors should choose material which requires an absolute minimum of props and these should be portable. Competitors must be able to set up their props in a minimum amount of time and without assistance. All props and costumes remain the sole responsibility of the competitor. Competitors should use good judgment in selections, and suitable dress for their presentations. It is not intended that students use elaborate costumes. Note: no live flame on stage is permitted.

3. Performing Arts BC has provided the following definitions as guidelines:

Prose: A prose passage is a selection from a story, novel, essay, or similar writing that forms a concise unit. Prose is non-metrical writing: thus, stories written in verse are not appropriate. In prose the speaker is the narrator. The focus should be on the voice. Vocal characterization is encouraged but the quality of prose must be maintained. The selection should include narration, description, and dialogue. It should be spoken in the story-telling style, but should not be performed as a dramatic scene, i.e., there is to be no acting, with only limited movement around the stage. Competitors may stand or be seated.

Drama: In drama the speaker is the character. The selection should be taken from a play written to be presented on the stage by an actor assuming language, movement and dress of the character portrayed. The selection should be the words of one character only with words of other characters omitted. Shakespeare selections must be taken from his plays rather than his non-dramatic poetry. Movement, character development and relationships are important in this section, thus 'standalone monologues' (not from longer plays) are poor choices at the provincial level.

Poetry: In poetry the language is molded into some kind of design; in prose it is not. Speakers may choose to perform any type of poetry: lyric, narrative, dramatic or slam – matching performance choices to author intention and style.

- Lyric - a short, unified poem expressing the poet's own experience and emotion usually presented in a relaxed stance with no movement. The speaker interprets rather than identifies with it. (e.g., Solitude by Bliss Carman; To Autumn by Keats; Sonnets of Shakespeare and Wordsworth.)
- Narrative - a poem which tells a story and usually has dialogue: the telling of a story is the primary concern of the speaker (e.g., The King's Breakfast by A. A. Milne; The Raven by E. A. Poe; The Cattle Thief by Pauline Johnson).

- Dramatic – in a dramatic poem, a character distinct from the performer and poet speaks, revealing personality and attitudes. The primary concert of the poem is to reveal character, rather than tell a story (e.g., My Last Duchess by Robert Browning, Patterns by Amy Lowell)
- Slam Poetry - Idea or thematic connection poems with voice, humour, rhythm, exaggeration, wordplay, written for performance to an audience. Excerpts may be presented as these poems are often very long. Suggested resource books include Word Warriors (Olsen), Take the Mic (Smith): Poetry Slam (Glazner).
- Sonnet – a sonnet is a fixed form lyric poem, traditionally consisting of 14 lines of iambic pentameter with a set rhyme scheme. In Senior Speech, modern sonnets with variations in rhyme scheme and stanzaic structure are permissible, as are caudated, curtal and double sonnets, provided their inclusion fits the overall time allowance. Sources: The Penguin Book of the Sonnet; Making of a Sonnet (Hirsch); The Art of the Sonnet (Burt).

Please see the Rules and Guidelines document for general festival information.

ADULT SOLO CATEGORIES

(No age restrictions except for the Provincial Classes)

SENIOR PROVINCIAL CLASS – BRITISH COLUMBIA RESIDENTS - AGES 15-23 ONLY

This class is mandatory for those wishing to be considered for recommendation to the Provincial Festival. Unless participants 16 years and under have already won the Intermediate Class at the Provincial Festival, it is recommended that they enter our Intermediate Provincial Class.

Students will perform a series of four selections: one each of Poetry, Prose, Dramatic Scene and Sonnet consecutively, recital style, in any order. While unifying themes and/or introductions and transitions are permitted, they are not required and will not be factored into any adjudication. Titles and introductions are not included in the class time limit but should be kept brief. One minute between selections is permitted. ALL SELECTIONS MUST BE MEMORIZED.

The Syllabi published by the major examination bodies, including the Royal Conservatory (Toronto), Conservatory Canada, Trinity College, etc., are suggested for grade level guidance. Recommended Minimum Level: Grade 8.

SA2081

Time Limit: 20 minutes

Entry fee \$240.00

SENIOR PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SPEAKING AND STORYTELLING – BRITISH COLUMBIA RESIDENTS - AGES 15-23 ONLY

1. One selection of original Public Speaking
2. And One selection of Storytelling

SA2199

Time Limit 16 minutes

Entry Fee \$120.00

SHAKESPEARE DUO

One selection, own choice.

SA2229	Time limit 10 minutes	Entry fee: \$75.00
SA2230	Time limit 15 minutes	Entry fee: \$90.00

POETRY DUO

One selection, own choice.

SA2231	Time limit 10 minutes	Entry fee: \$75.00
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GROUP SCENE

One selection, own choice for three or more performers.

SA2147	Time limit 10 minutes	Entry fee: \$75.00
SA2148	Time limit 15 minutes	Entry fee: \$90.00

GROUP SHAKESPEARE SCENE

One selection, own choice for three or more performers.

SA2151	Time limit 10 minutes	Entry fee: \$75.00
SA2152	Time limit 15 minutes	Entry fee: \$90.00