



AUTUMN 2026 SYLLABUS

ONLINE FESTIVAL

RULES & GUIDELINES

The VAYA International Music Festival is under the working management of the VAYA Youth Arts Society. Any questions not dealt with in these rules will be referred to the Directors whose decisions on such matters will be final and binding.

***** NEW: the VAYA Online Music festival no longer recommends competitors for the Provincial Festival. Those wishing to be considered need to register in our in-person 'Langley Live!' festival to be held in Langley, BC in April 2027.***

ONLINE FESTIVAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 15, 2026.
Registrations arriving after this date will be subject to a \$10.00 late fee.

Video submission deadlines are staggered to help us manage our workflow:	Video submission deadline	Target date for return of adjudications
Piano – All levels	October 30	November 20
Voice, Woodwinds & Brass	November 6	November 27
Strings, Small Ensembles, Percussion, Harp & Classical Guitar	November 13	December 4

ABOUT OUR ONLINE FORMAT:

1. In lieu of a live performance opportunity, written adjudications are more detailed than would be possible within the time constraints of an in-person festival.
2. Performance videos will be posted on our website (vayafestivals.ca).
3. We know that the playing field is not as level with this format. The quality of pianos and audio/video recordings will vary. Our adjudicators know to take this into consideration.
4. It may take up to three weeks to receive your adjudications and notices of awards depending on the volume of entries received.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2026 VAYA AUTUMN ONLINE MUSIC FESTIVAL:

Register HERE:

<https://vayafestivals.ca/vaya-international-music-festival/vaya-international-music-festival-registration/>

VIDEO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

1. Film a video of your performance(s) in one continuous take – one video file for each selection. No video editing is permitted.
2. Try to announce your name and title of selection at the beginning of your video. It helps the adjudicators connect with you.
3. Try to make sure your hands, face, feet, and instrument are visible. We understand that not everyone has the space to make this possible.
4. **VOCALISTS: LIP-SYNCHING IS NOT PERMITTED. NO ADJUDICATIONS OR REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN.**
5. **LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT IS NOT REQUIRED.** We will accept pre-recorded backing tracks.
6. Upload your recording to your own YouTube channel as an **UNLISTED** video – so anyone with the link can view it. Upload your video link and a PDF of your sheet music **to the link on your registration receipt** by the deadline date for your discipline. **Please note: We are unable to accept Google Drive or Dropbox links.**
7. **IMPORTANT:** We require **PDF** copies of sheet music for **ALL** entries. **We are unable to accept Jpeg or other formats.** **PROOF OF PURCHASE IS NOT NECESSARY.**

ABOUT REPERTOIRE & CATEGORIES:

1. Competitive categories are open to amateurs only, meaning those whose principal income is not derived from musical services. This does not apply to students of music who teach for the purpose of applying the money to further their musical education. Professional musicians are welcome to enter the festival for an adjudication only.
2. Participants may enter more than one selection in any category (e.g., Romantic Composers or Broadway Ballad). A separate entry fee is required for each additional selection.
3. 'OPEN' categories are for students who have completed their ARCT diploma.
4. Rules specific to certain categories are stated in their sections of the syllabus.
5. Participants who enter categories with an incorrect choice of music for the period named will be reassigned to the appropriate category.
6. Participants may not perform a selection in more than one category in the festival.

FESTIVAL POLICIES:

1. No refunds will be given once video submissions have been received.
2. The festival reserves the right to refuse any entry without assigning a reason for so doing.
3. By registering in the VAYA Autumn 2026 International Music Festival, participants agree
 - a) to release any responsibility of the Festival Society's Directors, Staff and Volunteers from any claims, demands, damages, actions, or causes of action arising out of or in consequence of any loss, illness, injury, or damage incurred while participating.
 - b) to allow the Society to post their video links on the vayafestivals.ca website. **If you do not want your video to be posted, you may opt out in the registration process.**

ABOUT MARKS, AWARDS & CERTIFICATES:

1. The VAYA marking system is as follows:

Platinum (95% +)

Extremely rare and stunning. A performance that shatters your expectations as a teacher and artist. This is a performance where you would gladly buy tickets to see more without a care for the grade level being performed. Without hesitation, you would say you will never forget this performance or the performer(s). A Platinum performance shows the performer is at the professional level.

Gold (90-94%)

A truly impressive performance where all elements of musicianship, technique, and showmanship are aligned. No matter the level of repertoire, the performer seamlessly blends the artistic and technical skills required to deliver a masterful performance of the selected repertoire from the moment they take the stage to their exit after their final bow. A Gold performance is a masterful performance.

Silver (85-89%)

A high-level, skillfully delivered performance that is well polished and delivered with confidence. The performance need not be technically perfect, but the performer shows a solid tenacity and passion for their craft. A performer awarded a Silver has an overall command of their instrument relative to their age and level of experience, appropriate style, and technical demands. This is an excellent performance by a performer with excellent potential to attain higher levels of skill as they develop in the future.

Bronze (84% -)

A performer awarded a Bronze has an overall command of their instrument relative to their age and level of experience, appropriate style, and technical demands. This is a generally good performance by a performer with excellent potential to attain higher levels of skill as they develop in the future. This performance might be a challenging work that is being performed for the first time. There may be stops and starts, there may be a memory issue, or extra bars of music added in addition to musicianship and technical skills for the level of repertoire that are still in development. All this being said, a Bronze performance in a competition is still an impressive achievement and would meet standards for formal exams.

2. Certificates and adjudication reports are sent by email approximately three weeks after the video submission deadline.
3. ****NEW: Due to budget constraints, medals will be sent free of charge via regular mail to Canadian addresses only. International winners will need to pay in advance for postage. Cash awards are sent via e-transfer to Canadian winners and via PayPal to international winners.**
4. To be eligible for any cash award, a participant must have entered at least two selections and have received a mark of at least 90% in both categories. Final decisions regarding awards rest with the adjudicators. All participants who achieve 90% will receive a Gold Outstanding Performance Medal. All participants who achieve 95% will receive a Platinum Outstanding Performance Medal.
5. The awards program is ongoing. Check our website (www.vayafestivals.ca) for updates.
6. If a division is under-subscribed, the festival reserves the right to re-allocate award money to another division.