



Merriam
School of
Music

27TH ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

2025 SYLLABUS REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Competitive

Friday, December 20th, 2024

Studiofest

Oakville: Friday, January 24th, 2025

Vaughan: Friday, January 17th, 2025

Online: Friday, January 10th, 2025

Music has been a constant presence in my life, shaping my early years and fueling my passion for performance. As a kid, playing the piano wasn't just about practice; it was a way to connect with family and friends, turning every small gathering into a mini concert. That excitement of sharing my music was a driving force, motivating me to keep exploring and growing as a musician. Preparing for the local music festival became a yearly tradition, one that marked my journey.

Reflecting on those experiences, I realize how much they taught me—not just about music, but about life: learning to bounce back from a less-than-perfect performance or gracefully acknowledge someone else's success became part of my growth, on and off the stage.

I'm deeply thankful for the dedication of everyone who continues to make our music festival possible. It's an enormous effort from participants, teachers, and loved ones, and I commend each of you for your hard work and commitment.

Best of luck to everyone at this year's festival!

Stu Harrison



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Merriam's Message
4	Scholarships & Prizes
5	2024 Festival Awards & Winners
9	Competition Dates & Venues

Competitive Festival Categories

Oakville

11	Guitar
12	Percussion
13	Piano
17	Strings
17	Vocal
18	Woodwinds

Vaughan

19	Piano
20	Vocal

StudioFest

Oakville

21	Piano
21	Guitar
21	Voice
21	Woodwinds
21	Strings
21	Percussion

Other Locations

22	Vaughan Studiofest
22	Toronto Studiofest
22	Online Studiofest

23	How to Register & Registration Fees
24	Rules & Regulations

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

Merriam Music Outstanding Solo Performance

PRIZE: Tuition Scholarship ranging from \$50-\$100

Open to all Merriam School of Music students participating in the MSM Competitive Festival. Recipients must receive a mark of 90% or more and must be nominated by an adjudicator to qualify for the scholarship. Each adjudicator will nominate performers who demonstrate a thorough understanding and excellent interpretation of their piece, in conjunction with outstanding proficiency in the instrument. Nominees will have their video performance reviewed by the Festival Scholarship Panel to determine final winners of the award.

Merriam Music Most Promising Voice Student

PRIZE: One (1) \$300 Tuition Scholarship

Open to all Merriam School of Music students participating in a minimum of three (3) vocal categories (Category 701-715). Scholarship will be awarded to the performer with the highest average between 3 vocal categories. Recipient must receive an average mark of 90% or more. All nominees will be reviewed by our Festival Scholarship Panel to determine a final winner.

Intermediate Keyfest Piano All-Around Performer

PRIZE: One (1) \$150 Tuition Scholarship

Open to all Merriam School of Music students participating in a minimum of three (3) Intermediate Keyfest Piano categories (Category 513-514, 518-526, 551-552, 557-558, 560-561, 570-571). At least one of those categories must be a jazz/pop category (Category 557-558, 560-561, 570-571). Scholarship will be awarded to the Intermediate piano performer with the highest average between the 3 piano categories. Recipient must receive an average mark of 90% or more. All nominees will be reviewed by our Festival Scholarship Panel to determine a final winner.

Advanced Keyfest Piano All-Around Performer

PRIZE: One (1) \$200 Tuition Scholarship

Open to all Merriam School of Music students participating in a minimum of three (3) Advanced Keyfest piano categories (Category 527-532, 553, 559, 562-563, 572). At least one of those categories must be a jazz/pop category (Category 559, 562-563, 572). Scholarship will be awarded to the advanced piano performer with the highest average between 3 piano categories. Recipient must receive an average mark of 90% or more. All nominees will be reviewed by our Festival Scholarship Panel to determine a final winner.

Senior Keyfest Piano All-Around Performer

PRIZE: One (1) \$250 Tuition Scholarship

Open to all Merriam School of Music students participating in a minimum of three (3) Senior Keyfest piano categories (Category 533-539, 554, 564-565, 573). At least one of those categories must be a jazz/pop category (Category #564-565, 573). Scholarship will be awarded to the Senior piano performer with the highest average between 3 piano categories. Recipient must receive an average mark of 90% or more. All nominees will be reviewed by our Festival Scholarship Panel to determine a final winner.

Merriam Music Exceptional Artist Piano Award

PRIZE: One (1) \$300 Tuition Scholarship

Open to all Merriam School of Music students participating in a minimum of three (3) Artist Piano categories (Category 540-550, 555, 566, 567, 574). Scholarship will be awarded to the performer with the highest average between 3 Artist Piano categories. Recipient must receive an average mark of 90% or more. All nominees will be reviewed by our Festival Scholarship Panel to determine a final winner.

Merriam Music Stand-Out Rock/Pop Performance

(Guitar/Drum/percussion scholarship)

PRIZE: One (1) \$200 Tuition Scholarship

Open to all Merriam School of Music students participating in a guitar or percussion category (Category 301-304, 307-309, 401-403). Scholarship will be awarded to the performer with the highest mark in a guitar or percussion category. Recipient must receive a minimum mark of 90% or more. All nominees will be reviewed by our Festival Scholarship Panel to determine a final winner.

Merriam Music Stand-Out Classical Performance

(Classical Guitar/Strings/Woodwinds scholarship)

PRIZE: One (1) \$200 Tuition Scholarship

Open to all Merriam School of Music students participating in a classical guitar/strings/woodwinds category (Category 305, 306, 311-314, 801-813, 601-607). Scholarship will be awarded to the performer with the highest mark in a classical guitar/strings/woodwinds category. Recipient must receive a minimum mark of 90% or more. All nominees will be reviewed by our Festival Scholarship Panel to determine a final winner.

FESTIVAL AWARDS

MSM Festival

All Entrants: Participation Ribbon
1st Place: Trophy
2nd Place: Silver Medal
3rd Place: Bronze Medal

In the event that there is only 1 entry for a category, awards will be determined based on marks. 85%+ will receive 1st place, 75%-84% will receive 2nd place and 65%-74% will receive 3rd place.

TROPHIES,
MEDALS AND RIBBONS
WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE
STUDENTS AT THE END OF
EACH COMPETITION BY
THE ADJUDICATOR

StudioFest

All Entrants: Participation Ribbon

All scholarship monies have been applied to the student's tuition.

All scholarships and plaques were handed out to the winners at the Keyfest Awards Ceremony on Sunday, October 20th, 2024.

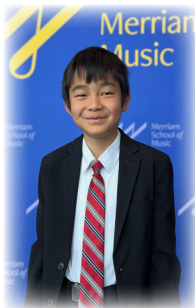
The Festival Scholarship winners for the 2024 festival will be invited to perform at the Merriam Showcase on April 27th, 2025 at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga.

FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS

ANISHKA LAHIRI

MERRIAM MUSIC OUTSTANDING SOLO PERFORMANCE \$100 SCHOLARSHIP

Anishka is 11 years old and started learning music at a very early age. She started group piano lessons at The Merriam School of Music when she was five years old. With a passion for singing, Anishka joined the Enriched Voice program. She has competed in many music festivals and won numerous awards. Anishka loves all genres of music, but her favourite ones are musical theatre and pop. Some other hobbies Anishka has include playing basketball, solving creative math problems, playing outside with her neighbour, and drawing pictures.



JAKE WANG

MERRIAM MUSIC OUTSTANDING SOLO PERFORMANCE \$100 SCHOLARSHIP

Jake Wang is 12 years old and is currently studying in the Gifted Program at Pilgrim Wood Public School. He has been playing the piano since he was 6, entered the Merriam Enriched Program when he was 9, and is currently under the instruction of Mary Ficzero.

Jake was one of the Award of Merit Scholarships winners in 2024, and he also won the Outstanding Solo Performance Award in 2024 MSM Competitive Festival. This year Jake will be taking the RCM level 9 exam, for which he has been preparing very diligently.

FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS

CONTINUED

CLAIRE LUO

MERRIAM MUSIC OUTSTANDING SOLO PERFORMANCE \$100 SCHOLARSHIP

Claire began her musical journey with piano lessons at the Merriam Music School at the age of five. While initially drawn to the flute, she opted to build a solid foundation by mastering the piano first. With a good understanding of music theory and a passion for performance, Claire actively participates in music festivals and competitions and is always eager to explore new pieces.



CHLOE LUO

MERRIAM MUSIC OUTSTANDING SOLO PERFORMANCE \$100 SCHOLARSHIP

Chloe, a twelve-year-old pianist, has been refining her skills at the Merriam School of Music for seven years. She finds joy in playing and listening to Nocturnes for their melodic beauty. Chloe has earned several medals and trophies from participating in competitive festivals. Currently, she is dedicated to perfecting her pedalling technique and decorating her performances with even more emotion and expression.

SARA SHAHRIARI

MERRIAM MUSIC OUTSTANDING SOLO PERFORMANCE \$100 SCHOLARSHIP

Sara Shahriari is a 13-year-old who has been playing the piano since she was 4. She has been enrolled in the Enriched Program for 6 years, learning piano with Mary Ficzero. Currently, she is in the Artist 2 level. Sara has won multiple trophies from Merriam's competitive festivals. She also loves improvising and composing on the piano. In addition to piano, Sara plays various percussion instruments at her school. Other than music, she enjoys drawing, reading, fossil hunting, birdwatching, badminton and running.



KIEFER AUGAITIS-ZWIEP

MERRIAM MUSIC OUTSTANDING SOLO PERFORMANCE \$100 SCHOLARSHIP

Kiefer is a senior at Cawthra Park Secondary School and a member of the regional arts program. He has been playing drums for many years and has a strong passion for music. He began attending the Merriam School of Music in 2019 and has since received a fan favourite award, as well as multiple Merriam Festival 1st place and outstanding solo performance awards.

FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS

CONTINUED

ANGELEE ZHAO

MERRIAM MUSIC EXCEPTIONAL ARTIST PIANO AWARD \$300 SCHOLARSHIP

Angelee Zhao is 13 years old, a grade 8 student at Mentor College, and is currently working on her RCM level 10. She started her group piano lessons at age 5 with Alana Merriam and then moved to private lessons. Angelee has been studying piano with Brie-Anne Meyer for 7 years and has been part of the Enriched Program for the past six years, progressing from Intermediate 1 to Artist 2 level.

Angelee has won many trophies, medals and scholarships from the MSM Festivals, as well as awards from the Peel Music Festivals and Toronto Kiwanis Festivals. Angelee enjoys playing all genres of music, but her favourite composer is Chopin. Besides music, Angelee is a competitive dancer and likes drawing, skiing, playing sports, and video games.



ISMAEL EYUBOV

MERRIAM MUSIC STAR COMPOSER AWARD RECORDING STUDIO SCHOLARSHIP

Hello, my name is Ismael, and I'm a 15-year-old music enthusiast who enjoys aviation, jazz, and the culinary industry. For the past twelve years, music has been my constant companion and has been helping me discover a part of myself.

My dream after completing RCM and Merriam School of Music Jazz certificate, is to enroll in Boston's Berkeley College of Music and to give myself a chance and career as a record label music manager. I really want to earn two degrees in the span of five years with certificates in jazz and music business.

I cannot wait to continue to explore my options within music, whether it is engineering behind the scenes of shows or being a performer, but I will always welcome every new thing that comes my way.



RAYAN PLAVILA

INTERMEDIATE KEYFEST PIANO ALL-AROUND PERFORMER \$150 SCHOLARSHIP

Hi, my name is Rayan, I am 11 years old and am currently playing at the Intermediate 2 level. I started taking piano classes at Merriam when I was 5 years old. My older brother also attended Merriam and I very much enjoyed watching him play the piano. I like playing from the 'Lead sheets' category because I can improvise and add my own creativity to the music.



FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS

CONTINUED

CAMERON MASSEL

MERRIAM MUSIC STAND OUT ROCK/POP PERFORMANCE \$200 SCHOLARSHIP

Cameron Massel is a Merriam Music graduate, having spent 13 years at the school. He started his music education with piano lessons, before switching to guitar with a focus on classic rock songs. He then joined the Band Chops program, where he learned the art of performance and became a monthly Jam Nite participant, practicing improvisation and soloing techniques.

After multiple years in Band Chops, Cameron was invited to join Merriam's All-Star Jazz & Contemporary bands, playing music ranging from jazz, funk, and rock, to country. Throughout the years, he has also picked up the bass guitar and drums, playing them both as a regular in the Jam Nite house band and in his high school bands.

Cameron is currently studying Electrical Engineering at the University of Waterloo and performing with Waterloo's Engineering Jazz Band (With Respect to Time).



SOPHIE YANG

MERRIAM MUSIC STAND-OUT CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE \$200 SCHOLARSHIP

Sophie is a grade 10 student who has a passion for music. Sophie's journey with music began at a young age when she discovered her talent for playing the piano and singing. Since then she has taken vocal lessons and started flute training over two years ago, both at Merriam. From school musicals to enchanting concerts with the Oakville Symphony Youth Orchestra, Sophie's musical path brims with enthusiasm and continuous growth.

PRITIKA LAHIRI

MERRIAM MUSIC MOST PROMISING VOICE STUDENT \$300 SCHOLARSHIP

Pritika is a dedicated high school student with a genuine love for music and singing. She has been a part of the Enriched Voice program at Merriam for six years, where she has explored a wide range of musical styles. Pritika particularly enjoys performing genres like pop and musical theatre, finding joy in expressing herself through each piece. When she's not singing, Pritika enjoys playing basketball, baking, and spending time with her family. She looks forward to continuing her musical journey and sharing her love of music with those around her.



COMPETITION DATES AND VENUES

OAKVILLE

All Oakville Competitive Festival sessions will take place in Studio A at the Oakville Campus,
[2359 Bristol Circle #100, Oakville.](#)

GUITAR - [See page 11](#) for a list of the specific categories

ALL CATEGORIES

Monday, February 10th

PERCUSSION - [See page 12](#) for a list of the specific categories

ALL CATEGORIES

Wednesday, March 5th

PIANO - [See pages 13-16](#) for a list of the specific categories

MYSTERY TUNE

Saturday, February 8th or Sunday, February 9th

ALFRED'S

Saturday, February 8th or Sunday, February 9th

JUNIOR KEYFEST

Saturday, February 22nd

MICROJAZZ

Sunday, February 23rd

RCM BAROQUE (RCM1-2 LIST C AND RCM 3-ARCT LIST A)

Monday, February 24th or Tuesday, February 25th

RCM CLASSICAL (RCM 1-2 LIST A AND RCM 3-ARCT LIST B)

Wednesday, February 26th or Thursday, February 27th

RCM ROMANTIC (RCM 1-2 LIST B AND RCM 3-7 LIST C)

Friday, February 28th or Saturday, March 1st

RCM IMPRESSIONISTIC AND 20TH CENTURY (RCM 8-ARCT LIST D AND RCM ARCT LIST E)

Tuesday, March 4th

RCM STUDIES (GRADES 1-ARCT)

Wednesday, February 19th or Thursday, February 20th

POP/CONTEMPORARY/LEAD SHEET

Saturday, February 22nd

STRINGS - [See page 17](#) for a list of the specific categories

ALL CATEGORIES

Tuesday, February 11th

VOCAL - [See page 17](#) for a list of the specific categories

DISNEY/MUSICAL THEATRE

Sunday, March 2nd or Monday, March 3rd

CLASSICAL/FOLK

Sunday, March 2nd or Monday, March 3rd

POP/JAZZ

Wednesday February 12th or Thursday, February 13th

WOODWINDS - [See page 18](#) for a list of the specific categories

Tuesday, February 11th

VAUGHAN

All Vaughan Competitive Festival sessions will take place at Toronto District Christian High School,
[377 Woodbridge Ave, Woodbridge.](#)

PIANO - [See page 19](#) for a list of the specific categories

ALL CATEGORIES

Friday, February 21st

VOCAL - [See page 20](#) for a list of the specific categories

ALL CATEGORIES

Friday, February 7th

COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

GUITAR



Monday, February 10th, 2025

From your selected categories, choose one piece to be played with or without sequence/track accompaniment.

ELECTRIC GUITAR

Age (as of Jan 1, 2025)	Category Description	Category #
14 yrs and younger	Pop/Jazz With or Without Track	301
15 yrs and older	Pop/Jazz With or Without Track	302

ACOUSTIC GUITAR

Age (as of Jan 1, 2025)	Category Description	Category #
14 yrs and younger	Pop/Jazz With or Without Track	303
15 yrs and older	Pop/Jazz With or Without Track	304

CLASSICAL GUITAR

Age (as of Jan 1, 2025)	Category Description	Category #
14 yrs and younger	Classical/Flamenco/Spanish With or Without Track	305
15 yrs and older	Classical/Flamenco/Spanish With or Without Track	306

BASS GUITAR

Keyfest Performance Level	Category Description	Category#
Junior	Open Style (own choice piece)	307
Intermediate	Open Style (own choice piece)	308
Advanced 1 & 2	Open Style (own choice piece)	309

COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

PERCUSSION



Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

Please Note

Junior Performance level - Playing skills include whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, and some sixteenth notes.

Intermediate Performance level - Playing skills include sixteenth notes

Advanced Performance level - Playing skills must include a minimum difficulty of triplet sixteenth notes

The following categories are to be played with sequence/track unless it is an open solo.

For the mandatory technical selection, see the 20-Bar Exercise on page 11 from Syncopation for the Modern Drummer; to be played on snare with “walking feet” ostinato. Tempo at 70 bpm.

Keyfest Performance Level	Category Description	Category#
Junior	Technical Selection and Open Style/Solo (own choice piece)	401

For the mandatory technical selection, see Exercise 1 measures 1 to 20 on page 38 from Syncopation for the Modern Drummer; right hand to be played on ride cymbal, left hand to be played on snare, feet to play Bossa Nova pattern. Tempo at 80 bpm.

Keyfest Performance Level	Category Description	Category#
Intermediate	Technical Selection and Open Style/Solo (own choice piece)	402

For the mandatory technical selection, see II-A measures 1 to 16 on page 16 from The New Breed; right hand to play 16th notes on hi-hat, left hand to play 2+4 on snare, bass drum to play from book. Tempo at 70 bpm.

Keyfest Performance Level	Category Description	Category#
Advanced	Technical Selection and Open Style/Solo (own choice piece)	403

COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

PIANO



PIANO - MYSTERY TUNE

Saturday, February 8th, 2025 or Sunday, February 9th, 2025

Choose from one of the following mystery tunes to be played **without** sequence/track accompaniment. Mystery Tunes must be picked from a [specific list of pieces that have been pre-approved by the festival committee](#). Students who choose a mystery tune outside of the selected list will not be considered for placement. To find the music for this category, speak to your teacher or reach out to festival@merriammusic.com.

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #	Approved Pieces (Please Select One)
Junior 1	Mystery Tune	501	Ode to Joy, Twinkle Twinkle, Yankee Doodle, Old MacDonald, Jingle Bells, London Bridge

PIANO - ALFRED'S COLLECTION

Saturday, February 8th, 2025 or Sunday, February 9th, 2025

In your selected categories, choose one of the following pieces to be played **without** sequence/track accompaniment.

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #
Junior 2	Alfred's Complete level 1 pg 19-23	502
Junior 2	Alfred's Complete level 1 pg 25-34	503
Junior 2	Alfred's Complete level 1 pg 35-46	504
Junior 3	Alfred's Complete level 1 pg 47-70	505
Junior 3	Alfred's level 2 pg 2-11	506
Junior 3	Alfred's level 2 pg 13-23	507
Junior 3	Alfred's level 2 pg 25-33	508
Junior 3	Alfred's level 2 pg 35-47	509
Junior 4	Alfred's level 3 pg 2-19	510
Junior 4	Alfred's level 3 pg 21-29	511
Junior 4	Alfred's level 3 pg 30-47	512
Intermediate 1	Alfred's Level 4 pg 2-21	513
Intermediate 2	Alfred's Level 4 pg 23-47	514

PIANO - KEYFEST COLLECTION

Saturday, February 22nd, 2025

In your selected categories, choose one of the following pieces to be played **with** sequence/track accompaniment:

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #	Approved Pieces (Please Select One)
Junior 1	Keyfest Book 1	515	Salsa, Dance House, Calypso, Fat Bass, First Orchestral Suite
Junior 2	Keyfest Book 2	516	Island Days, Gone Fishin', Island Nights, Piano Forte, Teeter Totter, Keys Together, Lightly Row (pg.26), Tired Soldier March, 4 Mystery Theme, China
Junior 3	Keyfest Book 3	517	More Swing, Flying All Over, Hello Pad, Off Beat Choir, Ups and Downs

COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

PIANO - RCM

In your selected categories, choose a piece from the appropriate List to be played **without** sequence/track accompaniment.

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #	Date
Intermediate 1	RCM Grade 1 & 2 List A (Baroque/Classical)	518	Feb 26 or Feb 27
Intermediate 1	RCM Grade 1 & 2 List B (Romantic/20th Century)	519	Feb 28 or Mar 1
Intermediate 1	RCM Grade 1 & 2 List C (Inventions)	520	Feb 24 or Feb 25
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3 List A (Baroque)	521	Feb 24 or Feb 25
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3 List B (Classical)	522	Feb 26 or Feb 27
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	523	Feb 28 or Mar 1
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 4 List A (Baroque)	524	Feb 24 or Feb 25
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 4 List B (Classical)	525	Feb 26 or Feb 27
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 4 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	526	Feb 28 or Mar 1
Advanced 1	RCM Grade 5 List A (Baroque)	527	Feb 24 or Feb 25
Advanced 1	RCM Grade 5 List B (Classical)	528	Feb 26 or Feb 27
Advanced 1	RCM Grade 5 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	529	Feb 28 or Mar 1
Advanced 2	RCM Grade 6 List A (Baroque)	530	Feb 24 or Feb 25
Advanced 2	RCM Grade 6 List B (Classical)	531	Feb 26 or Feb 27
Advanced 2	RCM Grade 6 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	532	Feb 28 or Mar 1
Senior 1	RCM Grade 7 List A (Baroque)	533	Feb 24 or Feb 25
Senior 1	RCM Grade 7 List B (Classical)	534	Feb 26 or Feb 27
Senior 1	RCM Grade 7 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	535	Feb 28 or Mar 1
Senior 2	RCM Grade 8 List A (Baroque)	536	Feb 24 or Feb 25
Senior 2	RCM Grade 8 List B (Classical)	537	Feb 26 or Feb 27
Senior 2	RCM Grade 8 List C (Romantic)	538	Feb 28 or Mar 1
Senior 2	RCM Grade 8 List D (20th Century)	539	Mar 4
Artist 1	RCM Grade 9 List A (Baroque)	540	Feb 24 or Feb 25
Artist 1	RCM Grade 9 List B (Classical)	541	Feb 26 or Feb 27
Artist 1	RCM Grade 9 List C (Romantic)	542	Feb 28 or Mar 1
Artist 1	RCM Grade 9 List D (20th Century)	543	Mar 4
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List A (Baroque)	544	Feb 24 or Feb 25
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List B (Classical)	545	Feb 26 or Feb 27
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List C (Romantic)	546	Feb 28 or Mar 1
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List D (Impressionistic)	547	Mar 4
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List E (20th Century)	548	Mar 4
Artist 2	RCM ARCT Concert Etudes	550	Feb 19 or Feb 20
Intermediate 1	RCM Grade 1 & 2 Study	551	Feb 19 or Feb 20
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3 & 4 Study	552	Feb 19 or Feb 20
Advanced Level	RCM Grade 5 & 6 Study	553	Feb 19 or Feb 20
Senior Level	RCM Grade 7 & 8 Study	554	Feb 19 or Feb 20
Artist Level	RCM Grade 9 & 10 Study	555	Feb 19 or Feb 20

COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

PIANO - MICROJAZZ

Sunday, February 23rd, 2025

From your selected categories, choose one of the following pieces to be played **with** sequence/track accompaniment:

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #	Approved Pieces (Please Select One)
Junior 4	Microjazz Collection 1	556	Struttin', Stairway, Questions, Country Ballad, After the Battle, Down to Business, A Thought, Ambling, Toy Soldiers, Tramstop, Lonesome Trail, Doleful Song
Intermediate Level 1	Microjazz Collection 1	557	New Confidence, Duet for One, A Day in Majorca, Cowboy Song, On the Right Lines, A Winter Song, Ragtime, Riviera, Snow Scene, A Short Walk, Walking Together, Tut-Tuttin', Cross-Over, Sprightly

Choose a selection from pages given to be played **with** sequence/track accompaniment:

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #	Page Selection
Intermediate 2	Microjazz Collection 2	558	from pages 5-37
Advanced Level	Microjazz Collection 3	559	from pages 6-41

PIANO - OPEN POP/CONTEMPORARY

Saturday, February 22nd, 2025

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #
Intermediate 1 & 2	Open Pop/Contemporary <u>With</u> Sequence/Track	560
Intermediate 1 & 2	Open Pop/Contemporary <u>Without</u> Sequence/Track	561
Advanced 1 & 2	Open Pop/Contemporary <u>With</u> Sequence/Track	562
Advanced 1 & 2	Open Pop/Contemporary <u>Without</u> Sequence/Track	563
Senior 1 & 2	Open Pop/Contemporary <u>With</u> Sequence/Track	564
Senior 1 & 2	Open Pop/Contemporary <u>Without</u> Sequence/Track	565
Artist Level	Open Pop/Contemporary <u>With</u> Sequence/Track	566
Artist Level	Open Pop/Contemporary <u>Without</u> Sequence/Track	567

PIANO - LEAD SHEET

Saturday, February 22nd, 2025

Choose one of the following Junior 3 or Junior 4 pieces from the Exam Resource Binder to be played **with** sequence/track accompaniment. It is expected that root position triads are used as the minimum LH arrangement.

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #	Approved Pieces (Please Select One)
Junior Level 3	Lead Sheet	568	Amazing Grace, Loch Lomond, My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean, This Old Man
Junior Level 4	Lead Sheet	569	Itsy Bitsy Spider, Pop Goes the Weasel, I know an Old Lady, Sailing

COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

PIANO - LEAD SHEET (continued)

Saturday, February 22nd, 2025

Choose one of the following Intermediate Level 1 pieces from the Exam Resource Binder to be played with sequence/track accompaniment. It is expected the student play 3 choruses: first and third being RH melody, LH chords and the second being RH improvised solo using the C blues scale over the chord progression in the LH.

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #	Approved Pieces (Please Select One)
Intermediate Level 1	Lead Sheet	570	Rock Around the Clock, Hound Dog, C Jam Blues, Sonnymoon for Two, The Twist

Choose one of the following Intermediate Level 2 pieces from the Exam Resource Binder to be played with sequence/track accompaniment. It is expected the student play 3 choruses: first and third being RH melody, LH chords and the second being RH improvised solo using the major pentatonic scale of the given key over the chord progression in the LH.

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #	Approved Pieces (Please Select One)
Intermediate Level 2	Lead Sheet	571	Blue Moon, Heart and Soul, Stand by Me, Last Kiss, You Send Me, All I Have to Do is Dream

Please submit the name of the Advanced level piece to be played with sequence/track accompaniment and the book/source that you will be playing from. All repertoire will be reviewed prior to the festival to ensure that the appropriate level was selected. It is expected that the student play 3 choruses: first and third being melody with chords and the second being improvised solo using appropriate chord scales over the chord progression (7 chords minimum). At least one 8 bar section should demonstrate both the melody and qualitative notes of the chords in the RH while playing chord roots in the LH.

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #
Advanced Level	Lead Sheet	572

Please submit the name of the Senior level piece to be played with sequence/track accompaniment and the book/source that you will be playing from. All repertoire will be reviewed prior to the Festival to ensure that the appropriate level was selected. It is expected that the student play 3 choruses: first and third being melody with chords and the second being improvised solo using appropriate chord scales with use of altered notes over the altered chords (9 chords minimum). At least one 8 bar section should demonstrate both the melody and qualitative notes of the chords in the RH while the LH plays the roots or roots and 5th. This section should have no bass in the sequence so as to not conflict with the LH.

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #
Senior Level	Lead Sheet	573

Choose and submit the name of the Artist level selection arranged from a leadsheet to be played with sequence/track. Selection should have an up-tempo swing feel (160 BPM min.) and should display walking LH bass accompaniment for dominant chords with appropriate chord scale improv.

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #
Artist Level	Lead Sheet	574

COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

STRINGS



Tuesday, February 11th, 2025

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #
Junior 1 & 2	Open Style (own choice)	601
Junior 3	Open Style (own choice)	602
Junior 4	Open Style (own choice)	603
Intermediate 1	Open Style (own choice)	604
Intermediate 2	Open Style (own choice)	605
Advanced Level	Open Style (own choice)	606
Senior Level	Open Style (own choice)	607

VOCAL



Age (as of Jan 1, 2025)	Category Description	Category #	Date
7-9 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	701	Mar 2 or Mar 3
7-9 yrs	Classical/Folk	702	Mar 2 or Mar 3
7-9 yrs	Pop/Jazz	703	Feb 12 or Feb 13
10-12 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	704	Mar 2 or Mar 3
10-12 yrs	Classical/Folk	705	Mar 2 or Mar 3
10-12 yrs	Pop/Jazz	706	Feb 12 or Feb 13
13-15 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	707	Mar 2 or Mar 3
13-15 yrs	Classical/Folk	708	Mar 2 or Mar 3
13-15 yrs	Pop/Jazz	709	Feb 12 or Feb 13
16-18 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	710	Mar 2 or Mar 3
16-18 yrs	Classical/Folk	711	Mar 2 or Mar 3
16-18 yrs	Pop/Jazz	712	Feb 12 or Feb 13
19 yrs and up	Disney/Musical Theatre	713	Mar 2 or Mar 3
19 yrs and up	Classical/Folk	714	Mar 2 or Mar 3
19 yrs and up	Pop/Jazz	715	Feb 12 or Feb 13

COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

WOODWINDS



Tuesday, February 11th, 2025

From your selected categories, select your own choice piece of the appropriate level to be played **with or without** sequence/track.

CLARINET & SAXOPHONE

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #
Junior 1 & 2	Own choice piece	801
Junior 3	Own choice piece	802
Junior 4	Own choice piece- RCM Grade 2 or equivalent	803
Intermediate	Own choice piece- RCM Grade 4 or equivalent	804
Advanced	Own choice piece- RCM Grade 6 or equivalent	805
Senior	Own choice piece- RCM Grade 8 or equivalent	806

FLUTE

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #
Junior 1 & 2	Own choice piece	807
Junior 3	Own choice piece	808
Junior 4	Own choice piece- RCM Grade 2 or equivalent	809
Intermediate	Own choice piece- RCM Grade 4 or equivalent	810
Advanced	Own choice piece- RCM Grade 6 or equivalent	811
Senior	Own choice piece- RCM Grade 8 or equivalent	812
Artist	Own choice piece- RCM Grade 9 or equivalent	813

COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - VAUGHAN

PIANO



Friday, February 21st, 2025

PIANO - ALFRED'S COLLECTION

In your selected categories, choose one of the following pieces to be played without sequence/track accompaniment.

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #
Junior 2	Alfred's Complete level 1 pg 19-23	1502
Junior 2	Alfred's Complete level 1 pg 25-34	1503
Junior 2	Alfred's Complete level 1 pg 35-46	1504
Junior 3	Alfred's Complete level 1 pg 47-70	1505
Junior 3	Alfred's level 2 pg 2-11	1506
Junior 3	Alfred's level 2 pg 13-23	1507
Junior 3	Alfred's level 2 pg 25-33	1508
Junior 3	Alfred's level 2 pg 35-47	1509
Junior 4	Alfred's level 3 pg 2-19	1510
Junior 4	Alfred's level 3 pg 21-29	1511
Junior 4	Alfred's level 3 pg 30-47	1512

PIANO - RCM

In your selected categories, choose a piece from the appropriate List to be played without sequence/track accompaniment.

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #
Intermediate 1	RCM Grade 1 & 2	1518
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3	1521
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 4	1524
Advanced 1	RCM Grade 5	1527
Advanced 2	RCM Grade 6	1530

PIANO - OPEN POP/CONTEMPORARY

Keyfest Level	Category Description	Category #
Intermediate 1 & 2	Open Pop/Contemporary <u>With</u> Sequence/Track	1560
Intermediate 1 & 2	Open Pop/Contemporary <u>Without</u> Sequence/Track	1561
Advanced 1 & 2	Open Pop/Contemporary <u>With</u> Sequence/Track	1562
Advanced 1 & 2	Open Pop/Contemporary <u>Without</u> Sequence/Track	1563

COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - VAUGHAN

VOCAL



Friday, February 7th, 2025

Age (as of Jan 1, 2025)

14 yrs and under
15 yrs and over
14 yrs and under
15 yrs and over

Category Description

Disney/Musical Theatre
Disney/Musical Theatre
Pop/Jazz
Pop/Jazz

Category #

1750
1751
1755
1756

STUDIOFEST

The Merriam School of Music will be hosting **StudioFest**, a non-competitive recital series open to all Merriam students. The sessions will be facilitated by Merriam teachers and verbal adjudication will be provided to each student at the end of their session. There is no cost to participate.

Only one entry per enrollment.

Sessions will be subdivided by instrument, and **will not** follow the specific categories of the Competitive Festival. Sessions will be further divided into blocks of 30 to 45 minutes.

Space is limited so all entries will be processed on a first come first served basis. Please, note that session start times may vary in order to accommodate demand.

OAKVILLE STUDIOFEST

All Oakville Studiofest sessions will take place in Studio A at the Oakville Campus,
[2359 Bristol Circle #100, Oakville.](#)

PIANO

Friday, January 31st, 2025

All Levels

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

Saturday, February 1st, 2025

All Levels

TIME

10:00am - 4:30pm

Sunday, February 2nd, 2025

All Levels

TIME

10:00am - 4:30pm

VOCAL

Monday, February 3rd, 2025

All Levels

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

Tuesday, February 4th, 2025

All Levels

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

GUITAR

Wednesday, February 5th, 2025

All Levels

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

STRINGS

Wednesday, February 5th, 2025

All Levels

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

WOODWINDS

Wednesday, February 5th, 2025

All Levels

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

PERCUSSION

Thursday, February 6th, 2025

All Levels

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

VAUGHAN STUDIOFEST

All Vaughan Studiofest sessions will take place at Toronto District Christian High School,
[377 Woodbridge Ave, Woodbridge.](#)

Thursday, January 23rd, 2025

All Levels and Instruments

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

Friday, January 24th, 2025

Piano - All Levels

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

TORONTO STUDIOFEST

Toronto students may register for either the Oakville or Vaughan Studiofest.

ONLINE STUDIOFEST

Students who prefer to take part in an online setting can register for the Online Studiofest. Pre-recorded video performances will be submitted for the festival and then premiered during the Online Studiofest live streaming event.

Friday, February 7th, 2025

All Levels and Instruments

TIME

7:00pm

HOW TO REGISTER

All registrations for the MSM Competitive Festival and Studiofest must be submitted using our members website. Only online registrations and payments will be accepted. All sequence and digital music accompaniment must be submitted using the online form

no later than 48 hours before the performance date.

Visit members.merriammusic.com/exam-festival to register and submit your track.

MSM COMPETITIVE FESTIVAL

All MSM Festival entries and applicable fees must be received no later than **Friday, December 20th, 2024**. Late entries will be accepted with a \$5.00 late fee up to one week after the deadline. Confirmation of dates and times for the competitive festival will be emailed on **Friday, January 10th, 2025**. The Festival reserves the right to change, modify or cancel any categories due to insufficient entries. You will be contacted by the school of any changes.

MSM COMPETITIVE FESTIVAL ENTRY FEES

OAKVILLE

INSTRUMENTAL

(Piano, Percussion, Strings, Woodwinds)

Junior 1-4 categories: \$18

Intermediate 1-2 categories: \$20

Advanced 1-2 categories: \$22

Senior 1-2 categories: \$24

Artist categories: \$26

GUITAR

(age as of Jan 1, 2025)

14 and under: \$20

15 and older: \$22

VOCAL

(age as of Jan 1, 2025)

12 and under: \$20

13 and older: \$22

VAUGHAN

PIANO

Junior 1-4 categories: \$18

Intermediate 1-2 categories: \$20

Advanced 1-2 categories: \$22

Senior 1-2 categories: \$24

Artist categories: \$26

VOCAL

(age as of Jan 1, 2025)

12 and under: \$20

13 and older: \$22

STUDIOFEST

All Studiofest entries must be received no later than:

Vaughan

Friday, January 17th, 2025

Oakville

Friday, January 24th, 2025

Online

Friday, January 31st, 2025

STUDIOFEST ENTRY FEES

FREE for all Merriam Students. Limit of 1 entry per enrollment.

All inquiries regarding the MSM Festival and Studiofest should be forwarded to festival@merriammusic.com

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Registration

Please read the [How To Register](#) section at the back of the syllabus for registration deadlines and fees. All registration fees are non-refundable.

It is the responsibility of the teachers and parents to check the eligibility of the competitors and the selection of their pieces.

Competitors may not use the same piece in more than one category, nor may they perform a piece they have performed in any previous Merriam Festival competition.

A confirmation email including your scheduled day and time will be sent to the email address submitted with your registration. Session start times may vary to accommodate the number of participants.

All competitors must be registered students with the Merriam School of Music at the time of their performance.

Memorization

Guitar, Percussion, Piano, Strings, Voice

Memorization is compulsory for these instruments unless otherwise noted. Competitors not playing from memory will receive comments only from the adjudicator. No mark or placement will be awarded.

Woodwinds

Memorization is not compulsory for woodwind categories.

Music Submission and Copyright

Guitar, Piano, Strings, Voice, Woodwinds

Performers are required to submit a copy of their sheet music and their audio accompaniment tracks (where applicable) using the members.merriammusic.com/exam-festival link. Sheet music must be submitted two weeks prior to the performance date, and tracks must be submitted no later than two days before the performance date.

Percussion

Performers are not required to submit sheet music if a published version does not exist; otherwise, the same rules as for other instruments apply.

All Instruments

All performers must demonstrate proof of ownership of any sheet music being used. Photocopies are strictly prohibited and will be cause for disqualification.

Accompaniment

Strings

All songs must be performed with a track or piano accompaniment.

Voice

All songs must be performed with a track or piano accompaniment. For the Pop/Jazz categories, competitors may also accompany themselves.

Adjudication and Awards

Performers arriving late to a session may be permitted to perform, but will only receive comments from the adjudicator. If the adjudication has already begun, they will not be considered for placement.

Students who leave before the end of their session will forfeit their chance for placement and scholarships.

First, second, and third place awards will be handed out by the adjudicator at the end of each category's performances.

Written adjudications will be emailed to each student within 3 days of their performance.

Adjudicators must not be approached during or after a session, and their decisions are final. All questions and concerns should be submitted by email to festival@merriammusic.com.

Students related to any Merriam employee are not eligible for Festival Scholarships.

A dark, grayscale image of a piano keyboard, viewed from a slightly elevated angle, serving as the background for the text.

OAKVILLE

2359 Bristol Circle
Oakville, ON, L6H 6P8
Phone: (905) 829-2020

VAUGHAN

75-3175 Rutherford Rd.
Vaughan, ON, L4K 5Y6
Phone: (877) 539-3378

TORONTO

943 Eglinton Ave, E, Unit #200
East York, ON, M4G 4B5
Phone: (647) 484-7786