

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.merriam-music.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. Please note, this will not be considered as part of the mark for the category.

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 5 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.