



Merriam  
School of  
Music

# 28TH ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

## 2026 SYLLABUS REGISTRATION DEADLINES

*Competitive*

Friday, December 19th, 2025

*Studiofest*

Oakville: Friday, January 16th, 2026

Vaughan: Friday, January 16th, 2026

Online: Friday, January 30th, 2026

Music festivals can have a powerful imprint on a child's development... in many cases it's the first truly public test of a difficult skill-set, where hard work and discipline are on vivid display for not just friends or family, but also complete strangers. The memories that music festivals help to build, and the tenacity they breed are priceless, and I applaud all who choose to take part this year.

Having just witnessed one of our strongest student enrolment periods in recent memory, I'm again reminded of music's enduring relevance and impact, even amongst an unsteady and dynamic year such as 2025. In fact, music feels more vital than ever. And I believe that families continue to invest in music education because they see what it brings: focus, confidence, connection, and joy, and the Merriam Music Festival embodies all of that. It's not only a chance for students to perform, but to grow - to learn how to prepare, to listen, to recover, and to celebrate one another's achievements. Every participant, no matter the outcome, walks away with something valuable.

Wishing everyone a rewarding and inspiring upcoming music festival,

Stu Harrison



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## StudioFest

### Oakville

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# 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/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  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Trophy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Silver Medal  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

# FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS

## NOLAN HARVEY

### MERRIAM MUSIC STAND-OUT ROCK/POP PERFORMANCE

Nolan started music lessons at Merriam at the age of 7, studying piano for 3 years before pivoting to drums at the age of 10. Since then, he has studied under Dave MacDougall until his graduation in 2025. Nolan was active in the jazz and rock bands, along with playing on the Varsity baseball team, and was on the honour roll all 4 years at Garth Webb Secondary School.

Nolan is currently attending his first year at Humber College where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Music (Drums).



## SOPHIE YANG

### MERRIAM MUSIC STAND-OUT CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE

Sophie is a grade 11 student who has a passion for music. Sophie's journey with music began at a young age, where she discovered her talent for playing the piano and singing. Since then she has taken both vocal and flute lessons, both at Merriam. From school musicals, band, and choirs, to enchanting concerts with the Oakville Symphony Youth Orchestra, Sophie's musical path brims with enthusiasm and continuous growth.

# FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS

## CONTINUED

### WILLIAM PORTERFIELD

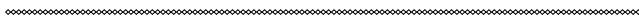
#### ADVANCED KEYFEST PIANO ALL-AROUND PERFORMER

William has loved music from the day he came into the world. He has been attending The Merriam School of Music since he was two years old and is currently enrolled in the Enriched Classical Piano program.

William attends St. Jude's Academy IB school and is actively involved in a number of extra curricular activities, including student council, sports, and music.

William also plays basketball and engages in robotics / coding programs outside of school.

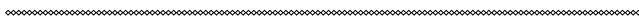
...he also loves the Avengers.



### SARA SHAHRIARI

#### MERRIAM MUSIC EXCEPTIONAL ARTIST PIANO AWARD

Sara Shahriari is a 14-year-old who has been playing the piano since she was four. She has been in the Enriched Program for quite a few years, learning piano with Mary Ficzer. Sara has won numerous trophies from Merriam's competitive festivals. She has volunteered at Merriam's summer camps and currently works as an accompanist for Merriam's choirs. Other than playing the piano, Sara enjoys drawing, reading, running, birdwatching, and playing the drums.



### PRITIKA LAHIRI

#### MOST PROMISING VOICE STUDENT

Pritika is a dedicated young musician with a genuine love for music and singing. She was part of the Enriched Voice program for six years, during which she explored a wide range of musical styles. Pritika particularly enjoys performing genres such as pop and musical theatre, finding joy in expressing herself through each piece. Outside of music, she enjoys playing basketball, baking, and spending time with her family. Pritika is now a student at the University of Waterloo where she looks forward to continuing her career journey and sharing her passion for music with others.



# COMPETITION DATES AND VENUES

## OAKVILLE

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

**GUITAR** - [See page 9](#) for a list of the specific categories

### ALL CATEGORIES

Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>

**PERCUSSION** - [See page 10](#) for a list of the specific categories

### ALL CATEGORIES

Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> or Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

**PIANO** - [See pages 11-14](#) for a list of the specific categories

### MYSTERY TUNE - [See page 11](#)

Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

### ALFRED'S - [See page 11](#)

Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

### JUNIOR KEYFEST - [See page 11](#)

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

### RCM BAROQUE (RCM1-2 LIST C AND RCM 3-ARCT LIST A) - [See page 12](#)

Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>

### RCM CLASSICAL (RCM 1-2 LIST A AND RCM 3-ARCT LIST B) - [See page 12](#)

Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

### RCM ROMANTIC (RCM 1-2 LIST B AND RCM 3-7 LIST C) - [See page 12](#)

Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

### RCM IMPRESSIONISTIC AND 20TH CENTURY (RCM 8-ARCT LIST D AND RCM ARCT LIST E) - [See Page 12](#)

Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

### RCM ETUDES (GRADES 1-ARCT) - [See page 12](#)

Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

### MICROJAZZ - [See page 13](#)

Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

### POP/CONTEMPORARY - [See page 13](#)

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

### LEAD SHEET - [See pages 13-14](#)

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

**STRINGS** - [See page 15](#) for a list of the specific categories

**ALL CATEGORIES**

Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

**VOCAL** - [See page 15](#) for a list of the specific categories

**DISNEY/MUSICAL THEATRE**

Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

**CLASSICAL/FOLK**

Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>

**POPI/JAZZ**

Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

**WOODWINDS** - [See page 16](#) for a list of the specific categories

Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

## VAUGHAN

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

**PIANO** - [See pages 17 and 18](#) for a list of the specific categories

**ALL CATEGORIES**

Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

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

**ALL CATEGORIES**

Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

# COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

## GUITAR



Monday, February 9th, 2026

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

### ELECTRIC GUITAR

Age (as of Jan 1, 2026)	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, 2026)	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, 2026)	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



**Monday, February 2nd, 2026**

**Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026**

## **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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

# COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

# PIANO



## PIANO - MYSTERY TUNE

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Choose from one of the following mystery tunes to be played **without** sequence/track accompaniment. To find the music for this category, speak to your teacher or reach out to festival@merriammusic.com.

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

## PIANO - ALFRED'S COLLECTION

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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

<b>Keyfest Level</b>	<b>Category Description</b>	<b>Category #</b>
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

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

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

<b>Keyfest Level</b>	<b>Category Description</b>	<b>Category #</b>	<b>Approved Pieces (Please Select One)</b>
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, Helo 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 5
Intermediate 1	RCM Grade 1 & 2 List B (Romantic/20th Century)	519	Feb 21
Intermediate 1	RCM Grade 1 & 2 List C (Inventions)	520	Feb 4
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3 List A (Baroque)	521	Feb 4
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3 List B (Classical)	522	Feb 5
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	523	Feb 21
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 4 List A (Baroque)	524	Feb 4
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 4 List B (Classical)	525	Feb 5
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 4 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	526	Feb 21
Advanced 1	RCM Grade 5 List A (Baroque)	527	Feb 4
Advanced 1	RCM Grade 5 List B (Classical)	528	Feb 5
Advanced 1	RCM Grade 5 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	529	Feb 21
Advanced 2	RCM Grade 6 List A (Baroque)	530	Feb 4
Advanced 2	RCM Grade 6 List B (Classical)	531	Feb 5
Advanced 2	RCM Grade 6 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	532	Feb 21
Senior 1	RCM Grade 7 List A (Baroque)	533	Feb 4
Senior 1	RCM Grade 7 List B (Classical)	534	Feb 5
Senior 1	RCM Grade 7 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	535	Feb 21
Senior 2	RCM Grade 8 List A (Baroque)	536	Feb 4
Senior 2	RCM Grade 8 List B (Classical)	537	Feb 5
Senior 2	RCM Grade 8 List C (Romantic)	538	Feb 21
Senior 2	RCM Grade 8 List D (20th Century)	539	Feb 19
Artist 1	RCM Grade 9 List A (Baroque)	540	Feb 4
Artist 1	RCM Grade 9 List B (Classical)	541	Feb 5
Artist 1	RCM Grade 9 List C (Romantic)	542	Feb 21
Artist 1	RCM Grade 9 List D (20th Century)	543	Feb 19
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List A (Baroque)	544	Feb 4
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List B (Classical)	545	Feb 5
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List C (Romantic)	546	Feb 21
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List D (Impressionistic)	547	Feb 19
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List E (20th Century)	548	Feb 19
Artist 2	RCM ARCT Concert Etudes	550	Feb 6
Intermediate 1	RCM Grade 1 & 2 Study	551	Feb 6
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3 & 4 Study	552	Feb 6
Advanced Level	RCM Grade 5 & 6 Study	553	Feb 6
Senior Level	RCM Grade 7 & 8 Study	554	Feb 6
Artist Level	RCM Grade 9 & 10 Study	555	Feb 6

# COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

## PIANO - MICROJAZZ

Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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 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

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

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

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

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 3	Lead Sheet	568	Amazing Grace , Loch Lomond, My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean, This Old Man
Junior 4	Lead Sheet	569	Itsy Bitsy Spider, Pop Goes the Weasel, I Know an Old Lady, Sailing

# COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

## PIANO - LEAD SHEET (continued)

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

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.

<b>Keyfest Level</b>	<b>Category Description</b>	<b>Category #</b>	<b>Approved Pieces (Please Select One)</b>
Intermediate 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.

<b>Keyfest Level</b>	<b>Category Description</b>	<b>Category #</b>	<b>Approved Pieces (Please Select One)</b>
Intermediate 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.

<b>Keyfest Level</b>	<b>Category Description</b>	<b>Category #</b>
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.

<b>Keyfest Level</b>	<b>Category Description</b>	<b>Category #</b>
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.

<b>Keyfest Level</b>	<b>Category Description</b>	<b>Category #</b>
Artist Level	Lead Sheet	574

# COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

# STRINGS



Tuesday, February 10th, 2026

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, 2026)	Category Description	Category #	Date
7-9 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	701	Feb 7
7-9 yrs	Classical/Folk	702	Feb 11
7-9 yrs	Pop/Jazz	703	Feb 17 or Feb 18
10-12 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	704	Feb 7
10-12 yrs	Classical/Folk	705	Feb 11
10-12 yrs	Pop/Jazz	706	Feb 17 or Feb 18
13-15 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	707	Feb 7
13-15 yrs	Classical/Folk	708	Feb 11
13-15 yrs	Pop/Jazz	709	Feb 17 or Feb 18
16-18 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	710	Feb 7
16-18 yrs	Classical/Folk	711	Feb 11
16-18 yrs	Pop/Jazz	712	Feb 17 or Feb 18
19 yrs and up	Disney/Musical Theatre	713	Feb 7
19 yrs and up	Classical/Folk	714	Feb 11
19 yrs and up	Pop/Jazz	715	Feb 17 or Feb 18

# COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES - OAKVILLE

# WOODWINDS



Tuesday, February 10th, 2026

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



Saturday, February 21st, 2026

## 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. Etudes **are not** included in these categories.

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
Senior 1	RCM Grade 7	1533

## 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

## PIANO - MICROJAZZ

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	1556	Struttin', Stairway, Questions, Country Ballad, After the Battle, Down to Business, A Thought, Ambling, Toy Soldiers, Tramstop, Lonesome Trail, Doleful Song
Intermediate 1	Microjazz Collection 1	1557	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	1558	from pages 5-37
Advanced Level	Microjazz Collection 3	1559	from pages 6-41

# VOCAL

Friday, February 20th, 2026



Age (as of Jan 1, 2026)	Category Description	Category #
10 yrs and under	Disney/Musical Theatre	1750
11-14 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	1751
15 yrs and over	Disney/Musical Theatre	1752
14 yrs and under	Pop/Jazz	1755
15 yrs and over	Pop/Jazz	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, Oakville.](#)

### PIANO

**Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

All Levels

**TIME**

10:00am - 4:30pm

**Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

All levels

**TIME**

5:00pm - 9:00pm

**Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

All levels

**TIME**

5:00pm - 9:00pm

**Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

All levels

**TIME**

5:00pm - 9:00pm

### GUITAR

**Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

All Levels

**TIME**

5:00pm - 9:00pm

### STRINGS

**Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

All Levels

**TIME**

5:00pm - 9:00pm

### WOODWINDS

**Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

All Levels

**TIME**

5:00pm - 9:00pm

### PERCUSSION

**Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

All Levels

**TIME**

5:00pm - 9:00pm

### VOCAL

**Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

All Levels

**TIME**

10:00am - 4:30pm

## VAUGHAN STUDIOFEST

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

**Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

All Levels and Instruments

**TIME**

5:00pm - 9:00pm

**Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Piano - All Levels

**TIME**

10:00am - 5:00pm

## 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.

**Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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](https://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 19th, 2025**. 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 9th, 2026**. 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

#### PIANO, 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, BASS GUITAR, PERCUSSION, VOCAL

All levels: \$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

All levels: \$22

## STUDIOFEST

All Studiofest entries must be received no later than:

### Oakville

Friday, January 16th, 2026

### Vaughan

Friday, January 16th, 2026

### Online

Friday, January 30th, 2026

## 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](mailto: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](https://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. 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](mailto: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