



Merriam
School of
Music

29TH ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

A large, faint, grey-scale illustration of musical instruments serves as a background. It includes a piano keyboard, an electric guitar, and a pair of crossed drumsticks.

2027 SYLLABUS REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Competitive

Saturday, December 19th, 2026

Studiofest

Saturday, January 9th, 2027

For young, aspiring musicians, there's nothing quite like that first festival performance. With their hard work on display and the nerves a little heightened, it's a huge growth moment that plants the seeds of public confidence and personal identity. The memories made here, and the tenacity these experiences build, are absolutely priceless.

Why do music festivals in 2027? To me and many educators and parents, music has rarely felt more vital than it does right now. Families keep investing in music education because they see what it gives their children: focus, confidence, connection, and joy - and the Merriam Music Festival brings all of that together. It's a chance to perform, but also to grow: to prepare, to listen, to recover from a stumble, and to cheer on the person next to you.

Whatever the outcome, this festival is here to create a constructive, supportive, and formative experience that celebrates music and the spirit of achievement. Good luck to everyone!

Stu Harrison



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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

Competitive Festival

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

VITOR GIANGROSSI

MERRIAM MUSIC STAND-OUT ROCK/POP PERFORMANCE

Vitor is a 12-year-old musician who has shown a deep love for music since his earliest days. By having fun with drums, ukulele, piano, and guitar, music has always been a cornerstone of his life. At age 10, he took his dedication to the next level by enrolling in formal bass guitar lessons at Merriam. When he isn't laying down grooves inspired by his favourite genres – rock, funk, jazz, and Brazilian music – Vitor can be found pursuing his other great love on the soccer field. Off the stage and pitch, he loves playing video games and spending quality time with his family.



SIRENA PRADEEP

MOST PROMISING VOICE STUDENT

Sirena has attended the Merriam School of Music since she was 4 years old, starting with piano lessons and then voice lessons. Currently, she is in the Advanced Keyfest level for both voice and piano. Sirena's goal is to finish the Keyfest levels and, one day, be a music teacher at Merriam, the place that helped her discover and nurture her love for music.

MILA PODSKALNA

MOST PROMISING VOICE STUDENT

Mila will soon be 14 years old and has been taking piano and voice lessons at Merriam since the age of nine. She is working on RCM Level 7 for piano and enjoys all styles of music. Last year, Mila was one of the main characters in the musical "Newsies" at Innovative Arts and was part of the enriched voice program at Merriam. She speaks fluent French, and she likes playing tennis, badminton, bicycling, hiking, and spending time with family and friends. Mila is currently in Grade 9 at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School in Oakville.



FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS

CONTINUED

COREY KAPLAN

INTERMEDIATE KEYFEST PIANO ALL-AROUND PERFORMER

Corey is a Grade 7 student at Appleby College with a passion for learning, music, and personal growth. He began studying piano at the Merriam School of Music in 2022 while in Grade 3, and has since developed his skills through both the All-Star and Enriched piano programs. Corey enjoys challenging himself both academically and creatively, demonstrating dedication, curiosity, and perseverance in everything he does. Whether he is working on a new piano piece, participating in school activities, or playing hockey, Corey approaches each experience with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. He looks forward to continuing his musical journey this year in Advanced Level 1.



MAISY XIAO

ADVANCED KEYFEST PIANO ALL-AROUND PERFORMER



Maisy began her musical journey at Merriam Music in 2021, and music has since become an important part of her life. She has studied with Amber Mailloux since 2023 and joined the Enriched Program in 2024. She now studies both piano and violin and has expanded her musical interests to musical theatre and orchestra. Maisy loves discovering new pieces, challenging herself, and bringing music to life through performance. Beyond music, she is an avid reader who loves fantasy and science books. She also enjoys dance, tennis, snowboarding, and creative projects. Curious and full of ideas, Maisy is always eager to learn and create.

ANNA MARIYA KOWALCZYK

MERRIAM MUSIC EXCEPTIONAL ARTIST PIANO AWARD

Anna Mariya Kowalczyk is an accomplished 11-year-old pianist who began studying piano in 2022. She completed RCM Level 10 Piano with First Class Honours and is preparing for her ARCT Performer Diploma. From 2023 to 2026, she earned numerous First Place awards at music festivals across Ontario and was selected to compete at the Provincial level in 2026.

Anna Mariya has performed in Italy, Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec City, and has participated in masterclasses and chamber music collaborations with professional musicians. Besides music, she also enjoys figure skating and Ukrainian folk dancing.



ELLA WANG

MERRIAM MUSIC STAND-OUT CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE



For Ella, music has always been about curiosity, connection, and discovery. She began playing piano at five, followed by flute and alto saxophone at eleven. Whether performing with a band or exploring a new instrument, Ella loves the energy of making music with others and finding her own musical voice. She is always looking for new challenges that help her grow as a musician and performer. When she's not making music, Ella enjoys reading and bicycling. Above all, she hopes to share her enthusiasm for music and inspire others to discover its joy.

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 10](#) for a list of the specific categories

ALL CATEGORIES

Tuesday, February 9th

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

ALL CATEGORIES

Wednesday, February 10th or Thursday, February 11th

PIANO - [See pages 12-15](#) for a list of the specific categories

MYSTERY TUNE - [See page 12](#)

Saturday, February 6th

ALFRED'S - [See page 12](#)

Saturday, February 6th

JUNIOR KEYFEST - [See page 12](#)

Sunday, February 28th

RCM BAROQUE (RCM 1-2 LIST C AND RCM 3-ARCT LIST A) - [See page 13](#)

Monday, February 1st

RCM CLASSICAL (RCM 1-2 LIST A AND RCM 3-ARCT LIST B) - [See page 13](#)

Wednesday, February 3rd or Thursday February 4th

RCM ROMANTIC (RCM 1-2 LIST B AND RCM 3-7 LIST C) - [See page 13](#)

Saturday, February 27th

RCM IMPRESSIONISTIC AND 20TH CENTURY (RCM 8-ARCT LIST D AND RCM ARCT LIST E) - [See Page 13](#)

Wednesday, February 24th

RCM ETUDES (GRADES 1-ARCT) - [See page 13](#)

Tuesday, February 16th or Wednesday, February 17th

MICROJAZZ - [See page 14](#)

Thursday, February 25th

POP/CONTEMPORARY - [See page 14](#)

Sunday, February 28th

LEAD SHEET - [See pages 14-15](#)

Sunday, February 28th

STRINGS - [See page 16](#) for a list of the specific categories
ALL CATEGORIES

Monday, February 8th

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

Sunday, February 21st

POP/JAZZ

Monday February 22nd

CLASSICAL/FOLK

Tuesday, February 23rd

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

Monday, February 8th

VAUGHAN

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

PIANO - [See pages 20 and 21](#) for a list of the specific categories
ALL CATEGORIES

Saturday, February 20th

VOCAL - [See page 22](#) for a list of the specific categories
ALL CATEGORIES

Friday, February 19th



OAKVILLE COMPETITIVE FESTIVAL



Guitarfest



Tuesday, February 9th, 2027

Memorization is compulsory. Competitors not playing from memory will receive comments only from the adjudicator. No mark or placement will be awarded.

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

ELECTRIC GUITAR

Age (as of Jan 1, 2027)	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, 2027)	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, 2027)	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

Drumfest

Wednesday, February 10th, 2027

Thursday, February 11th, 2027

Memorization is compulsory with the exception of the mandatory technical selection. Competitors not playing from memory will receive comments only from the adjudicator. No mark or placement will be awarded.

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.

Keyfest Performance Level	Category Description	Category #
Junior	Mandatory 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.

Keyfest Performance Level	Category Description	Category #
Intermediate	Mandatory 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.

Keyfest Performance Level	Category Description	Category #
Advanced	Mandatory 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.

Pianofest

NEW: Junior Level Piano

New to the festival this year, Junior Level piano students will be awarded gold, silver, or bronze in their categories based on their performance against the standard rubric. Students will not compete against each other for placement.

The rubric will be made available through the festival portal so that students and teachers can prepare accordingly.

Memorization is compulsory. Competitors not playing from memory will receive comments only from the adjudicator. No mark or placement will be awarded.

PIANO - MYSTERY TUNE

Saturday, February 6th, 2027

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 bjagger@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 6th, 2027

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

Sunday, February 28th, 2027

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

PIANO - KEYFEST COLLECTION (continued)

Sunday, February 28th, 2027

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

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 1
Intermediate 1	RCM Grade 1 & 2 List B (Romantic/20th Century)	519	Feb 3 or Feb 4
Intermediate 1	RCM Grade 1 & 2 List C (Inventions)	520	Feb 27
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3 List A (Baroque)	521	Feb 1
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3 List B (Classical)	522	Feb 3 or Feb 4
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	523	Feb 27
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 4 List A (Baroque)	524	Feb 1
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 4 List B (Classical)	525	Feb 3 or Feb 4
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 4 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	526	Feb 27
Advanced 1	RCM Grade 5 List A (Baroque)	527	Feb 1
Advanced 1	RCM Grade 5 List B (Classical)	528	Feb 3 or Feb 4
Advanced 1	RCM Grade 5 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	529	Feb 27
Advanced 2	RCM Grade 6 List A (Baroque)	530	Feb 1
Advanced 2	RCM Grade 6 List B (Classical)	531	Feb 3 or Feb 4
Advanced 2	RCM Grade 6 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	532	Feb 27
Senior 1	RCM Grade 7 List A (Baroque)	533	Feb 1
Senior 1	RCM Grade 7 List B (Classical)	534	Feb 3 or Feb 4
Senior 1	RCM Grade 7 List C (Romantic/20th Century)	535	Feb 27
Senior 2	RCM Grade 8 List A (Baroque)	536	Feb 1
Senior 2	RCM Grade 8 List B (Classical)	537	Feb 3 or Feb 4
Senior 2	RCM Grade 8 List C (Romantic)	538	Feb 27
Senior 2	RCM Grade 8 List D (20th Century)	539	Feb 24
Artist 1	RCM Grade 9 List A (Baroque)	540	Feb 1
Artist 1	RCM Grade 9 List B (Classical)	541	Feb 3 or Feb 4
Artist 1	RCM Grade 9 List C (Romantic)	542	Feb 27
Artist 1	RCM Grade 9 List D (20th Century)	543	Feb 24
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List A (Baroque)	544	Feb 1
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List B (Classical)	545	Feb 3 or Feb 4
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List C (Romantic)	546	Feb 27
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List D (Impressionistic)	547	Feb 24
Artist 2	RCM Grade 10 and ARCT List E (20th Century)	548	Feb 24
Artist 2	RCM ARCT Concert Etudes	550	Feb 16 or Feb 17
Intermediate 1	RCM Grade 1 & 2 Study	551	Feb 16 or Feb 17
Intermediate 2	RCM Grade 3 & 4 Study	552	Feb 16 or Feb 17
Advanced Level	RCM Grade 5 & 6 Study	553	Feb 16 or Feb 17
Senior Level	RCM Grade 7 & 8 Study	554	Feb 16 or Feb 17
Artist Level	RCM Grade 9 & 10 Study	555	Feb 16 or Feb 17

PIANO - MICROJAZZ

Thursday, February 25th, 2027

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

From your selected categories, 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 28th, 2027

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 28th, 2027

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

Choose one of the above 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.

PIANO - LEAD SHEET (continued)

Sunday, February 28th, 2027

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

Choose one of the above 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 2	Lead Sheet	571	Blue Moon, Heart and Soul, Stand by Me, Last Kiss, You Send Me, All I Have to Do is Dream

Choose one of the above 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 #
Advanced Level	Lead Sheet	572

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 #
Senior Level	Lead Sheet	573

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 #
Artist Level	Lead Sheet	574

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.

Stringfest

Monday, February 8th, 2027

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

Memorization is compulsory. Competitors not playing from memory will receive comments only from the adjudicator. No mark or placement will be awarded.

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

Voicefest

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.

Memorization is compulsory. Competitors not playing from memory will receive comments only from the adjudicator. No mark or placement will be awarded.

Age (as of Jan 1, 2027)	Category Description	Category #	Date
7-9 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	701	Feb 21
	Classical/Folk	702	Feb 23
	Pop/Jazz	703	Feb 22
10-12 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	704	Feb 21
	Classical/Folk	705	Feb 23
	Pop/Jazz	706	Feb 22
13-15 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	707	Feb 21
	Classical/Folk	708	Feb 23
	Pop/Jazz	709	Feb 22
16-18 yrs	Disney/Musical Theatre	710	Feb 21
	Classical/Folk	711	Feb 23
	Pop/Jazz	712	Feb 22
19 yrs and up	Disney/Musical Theatre	713	Feb 21
	Classical/Folk	714	Feb 23
	Pop/Jazz	715	Feb 22

Woodwindfest

Monday, February 8th, 2027

Memorization is not compulsory for woodwind categories.

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



VAUGHAN COMPETITIVE FESTIVAL



Pianofest



Saturday, February 20th, 2027

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

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

Voicefest



Friday, February 19th, 2027

Memorization is compulsory. Competitors not playing from memory will receive comments only from the adjudicator. No mark or placement will be awarded.

Age (as of Jan 1, 2027)	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 24th, 2027

All Levels

Monday, January 25th, 2027

All Levels

Tuesday, January 26th, 2027

All Levels

Wednesday, January 27th, 2027

All Levels

TIME

10:00am - 4:30pm

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

GUITAR

Thursday, January 28th, 2027

All Levels

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

STRINGS

Thursday, January 28th, 2027

All Levels

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

WOODWINDS

Thursday, January 28th, 2027

All Levels

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

PERCUSSION

Friday, January 29th, 2027

All Levels

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

VOCAL

Saturday, January 30th, 2027

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.](#)

Friday, January 22nd, 2027

All Levels and Instruments

TIME

5:00pm - 9:00pm

Saturday, January 23rd, 2027

Piano - All Levels

TIME

10:00am - 5:00pm

TORONTO STUDIOFEST

All Toronto Studiofest sessions will take place in the recital space at the Toronto Campus,
[943 Eglinton Ave E, Toronto.](#)

Monday, February 8th, 2027

All Levels and Instruments

TIME

5:00pm - 8:00pm

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 14th, 2027

All Levels and Instruments

TIME

7:30pm

HOW TO REGISTER

All registrations for the MSM Competitive Festival and Studiofest must be submitted using our festival portal. Only online registrations and payments using the festival portal will be accepted. All sequence and digital music accompaniment must be submitted using the Festival portal **no later than one week before the performance date.**

Visit the Festival portal at <https://festival.merriammusic.app/login> to register.

MSM COMPETITIVE FESTIVAL

All MSM Festival entries and applicable fees must be received no later than **Saturday, December 19th, 2026**. 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 available on the Festival portal on **Saturday, January 9th, 2027**. 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 - Vaughan - Toronto

Saturday, January 9th, 2027

Online

Saturday, January 30th, 2027

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 bjagger@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 festival portal. Sheet music must be submitted two weeks prior to the performance date, and tracks must be submitted no later than one week 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 available 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 bjagger@merriammusic.com.

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

A dark, stylized background featuring a piano keyboard. The keys are represented by vertical bars of varying heights and shades of gray, creating a rhythmic pattern across the entire page.

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