

# SONGFEST 2026

## Sponsored by NATS - Vancouver Chapter

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

Welcome to Songfest 2026! NATS Vancouver acknowledges that we sing on the unceded and traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations where they sang and danced and held ceremony for generations. We thank them for their stewardship of these lands.

NATS Vancouver Songfest celebrates the power of song and the joy of sharing our songs and voices with others. We are therefore fully committed to creating a space where everyone is heard and valued regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, or ability.

A) Please review the following rules and regulations carefully.

B) Each class has a total time limit. Your timing starts from the beginning of your introduction. If the adjudicator asks you to wait for a moment between selections, this time will not count towards your total time limit.

C) All teachers, be they NATS Vancouver Chapter members or not, are welcome to enter students into NATS Vancouver Songfest. Any Chapter teacher entering students must be available to assist with the operation of Songfest upon request. Tasks required include greeting, copy-checking, adjudication, adjudicator assistance, technical assistance, organization, and other tasks that may arise. Chapter teachers unable to volunteer their time will be asked to contribute a minimum of \$40 to the scholarship fund.

D) Karen Lee-Morlang and Maria Jung are our Songfest pianists, and we encourage you to engage them. You are responsible for paying their rehearsal and performance fees. **The pianists must receive all music (in the correct key, correct edition, etc) by April 13, 2026.** Failure to meet this deadline may result in your having to find another pianist. Electronic tracks are not permitted for live performance. All music sent to pianists must be a PDF scan; please do not send pictures of your music.

Early rehearsals with your pianist are encouraged. The pianists will have their own policies around fees if a student withdraws from competition. Please check with them for this information.

E) All singers in Songfest will provide ONE original copy of their music to the adjudicator, and ONE to their pianist.

Photocopied music will not be permitted. Failure to comply with copyright rules will disqualify a participant from competition. Please note the following exceptions:

- a. Out of print music or unpublished music: Written notice of permission to copy from the publisher or composer must be provided at the time of performance.
- b. Downloaded sheet music from internet sources will only be permissible when accompanied by a receipt indicating proof of purchase or proof of public domain status. Music downloaded from imslp.org is permitted. Please include the full URL of the work being performed on the first page of all parts and copies being used.
- c. A pianist must clearly display the original score on the piano if using a copy to facilitate page turns. Failure to do so will disqualify a participant from competition. Music downloaded from imslp.org is permitted.

F) In most classes, participants are asked to present selections that show contrast. Note: **This is not optional.** Contrast can be achieved through genre, style, language, era, or tonality. If in doubt, please contact the festival coordinators. Participants are asked to sing one, two, or three selections as outlined in each class description. Those that choose to perform fewer than the maximum song requirement will not be eligible for scholarships awarded in that class.

G) All registrations are final. Refunds will not be given if participants are unable to perform on May 2nd. 100% of registration fees paid are used for scholarships. If you are unable to perform, please know that the funds are being put to good use.

H) Substitution of repertoire after the registration deadline is not allowed.

I) Please restrict use of props in Musical Theatre classes. One small prop may be used if desired. Costumes are encouraged, but not required, and should not distract from the performance. Time is not given for costume changes, and any time taken for such costume changes will be considered part of your performance time.

J) Scholarship winners will be notified shortly after May 2 to discuss their performance at the Songfest Honours Recital. Scholarships are given at the discretion of the adjudicator, and having the top ranking in a class does not always guarantee a scholarship award. Please set aside Sunday, May 24th, for participation in the Honours and Scholarship recital.

K) The adjudicators' decision is final. Participants, teachers and parents are requested to refrain from conversation with the Adjudicator before, during and after any performance. Any questions are to be directed to the Songfest Committee.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS**

Scholarships will only be given to performances of a high level and to students who perform the maximum number of selections for their class. A minimum mark of 85% must be achieved to be awarded a scholarship.

If class size is 5 singers or greater, a second place award may also be made available.

All scholarships are at the discretion of the Adjudicator(s) and the Songfest Coordinators.

**Crescendo Operatic Society** is offering scholarships to three singers enrolled in Songfest 2026. If you would like to be considered for these scholarships, please indicate your interest on the Application Form. Crescendo Operatic Society offers affordable opportunities for singers to learn about performing in the practical setting of production. In this respect it is a unique organization with weekly rehearsals and several performances a year. The COS programme incorporates singing, movement and acting as well as learning various aspects of stagecraft and offering positions in production. For more information visit <https://www.crescendooperatic.org/#about>

An **Honours Recital** will be held on Sunday, May 24, 2026. Outstanding performers will be asked to sing, and scholarship winners will be announced.

Please contact [songfest@natsvancouver.org](mailto:songfest@natsvancouver.org) if you would like to donate scholarship funds to Songfest 2026. If you like, you may direct your funds to whichever class you prefer, or you can leave it up to the coordinators' discretion.

## **APPLICATION FEES & DEADLINES**

The registration deadline is March 6, 2026. Applications received after this date will be considered on a case by case basis. If accepted, late applications are subject to a \$10 late fee per participant.

There is one single fee per class. Please refer to the syllabus for class fees.

Once your registration form is received, you will be invoiced via PayPal for your class fees. Fee payment is due by April 10, 2026. Registration is not complete until all fees are paid.

Please contact [songfest@natsvancouver.org](mailto:songfest@natsvancouver.org) with any questions or for more information.

## **SONGFEST 2026 SYLLABUS**

**CHILDREN'S DIVISION:** (11 years & Under - \$75 scholarship)

**FEES:** \$35 for students of NATS Vancouver members  
\$40 for all other singers

**CD: Children's Division** – Participants are asked to prepare any two contrasting, age-appropriate selections from Musical Theatre, Classical, Folk, Disney, or any other CCM repertoire suitable to the performer's age and ability. **Time Limit: 8 minutes**

**YOUTH DIVISION:** (12-14 years - \$100 scholarship)

**FEES:** \$35/class for students of NATS Vancouver members  
\$40/class for all other singers

**YMT: Youth Musical Theatre** – Participants are asked to prepare two contrasting, age-appropriate Musical Theatre selections from Staged Broadway and/or Off-Broadway productions. **Time Limit: 10 minutes.**

**YCL: Youth Classical** – Participants are asked to prepare two contrasting, age-appropriate Classical selections. Classical Folk song arrangements are accepted. **Time Limit: 10 minutes.**

**INTERMEDIATE DIVISION:** (15-18 years; secondary/high school students - \$125 scholarship)

**FEES:** \$40/class for students of NATS Vancouver members  
\$45/class for all other singers

**\*\*Please read this Special Note for the Intermediate division\*\***

This division is intended for singers who are in secondary school (high school). Therefore:

- Any singer who is 18 as of March 31, 2026, has already graduated from high school, and is studying voice at a post-secondary institution must enter the University/College division, and not this division.
- Any student who is 18 as of March 31, 2026, has already graduated from high school, but is not studying voice at a post-secondary institution is asked to enter the Adult Avocational division.

**IMT: Intermediate Musical Theatre** – Participants are asked to prepare two contrasting, age-appropriate Musical Theatre selections from Staged Broadway and Off-Broadway productions. **Time limit: 12 minutes.**

**ICL: Intermediate Classical** – Participants are asked to prepare two contrasting, age-appropriate Classical selections. At least one selection must be in a language other than English. Classical Folk song arrangements are accepted. **Time limit: 12 minutes.**

**UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE DIVISION:** (18 years and up, studying voice at a post-secondary institution - \$175 scholarship)

**FEES:** \$45/class for students of NATS Vancouver members  
\$50/class for all other singers

**UCMT: Univ/Coll Musical Theatre** – Participants are asked to prepare three contrasting Musical Theatre selections from Staged Broadway and/or Off-Broadway productions. **Time Limit: 15 minutes.**

**UCCL: Univ/Coll Classical** – Participants are asked to prepare three contrasting Classical selections. Repertoire should include three languages, one of which is English. **Time Limit: 15 minutes.**

**ADULT AVOCATIONAL DIVISION** (18 years and up, not studying voice at a post-secondary institution - \$150 scholarship),

**FEES:** \$40/class for students of NATS Vancouver members  
\$45/class for all other singers

**AAMT: Adult Avoc. Musical Theatre** – Participants are asked to prepare two contrasting Musical Theatre selections from Staged Broadway and/or Off-Broadway productions. **Time limit: 12 minutes.**

**AAAS: Adult Avoc. Art Song** – Participants are asked to prepare two contrasting Art Songs. One selection must be in a language other than English. **Time limit: 12 minutes.**

**AAA: Adult Avoc. Aria** – Participants are asked to prepare two contrasting arias, from opera, operetta, oratorio, or other major works. One selection must be in a language other than English. Inclusion of any recitatives is at the discretion of the student and their teacher. **Time limit: 12 minutes.**

**CANADIAN REPERTOIRE** (All Ages - \$75 scholarship)

**FEES:** \$30/class for students of NATS members  
\$35/class for all other singers

**CR: Canadian Repertoire** - Participants are asked to prepare one age-appropriate selection from Musical Theatre or Classical Repertoire written by Canadian Composers. If needed, the participants will be divided into appropriate age categories by the Songfest Coordinators. These songs must not have been used by the participant in another Songfest class. **Time Limit: 5 minutes.**

**CONTEMPORARY COMMERCIAL MUSIC** (12 years and up - \$125 scholarship)

**FEES:** \$40/class for students of NATS members  
\$45/class for all other singers

**CCM: Contemporary Music** - Participants are asked to prepare two contrasting, age-appropriate selections from Jazz, Pop, Rock, or other Non-Classical/Non-Musical Theatre repertoire. Participants may specialize in a single genre or may select repertoire from multiple genres. If needed, participants will be divided into appropriate age categories by the Songfest

Coordinators. Participants may also choose to accompany themselves. These songs must not have been used by the participant in another Songfest class. **Time Limit: 12 minutes.**

**NON-COMPETITIVE CLASS** (All Ages)

FEES: \$35/class for students of NATS members  
\$40/class for all other singers

**NC: Non-Competitive** - Participants may perform one or two selections from any genre. Adjudicators will write comments but not give a mark or rank singers. This is a perfect class for the vocalist that is still developing! **Time Limit: 10 minutes.**

Please contact [songfest@natsvancouver.org](mailto:songfest@natsvancouver.org) with any questions or for more information.