

VSO SCHOOL OF MUSIC

VSO School of Music Festival for Strings

February 12 – February 16, 2024

Celebration Recital on Saturday February 17, 2024

Application Deadline: Monday December 4, 2023

The VSO School of Music Festival for Strings is an opportunity for music students of the VSOSoM to perform in a nurturing environment and receive positive and valuable feedback from a professional adjudicator. In this way, we hope to inspire their continued musical growth. Students awarded the highest marks at the festival will be awarded scholarships for continued studies, either at the VSO School of Music or an accredited post-secondary institution at which the participant has been accepted.

All classes and the Celebration Recital will take place in Pyatt Hall at the VSO School of Music.

Piece Selection

The Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) Syllabus is the syllabus of reference for the Festival. Pieces not listed in the RCM Syllabus or listed in other syllabi such as LCM and ABRSM may be entered in the Festival, as long as they are at the appropriate level for the grade. Teachers are asked to use their judgement on grade suitability. For Violin, both the 2013 and 2021 syllabi are acceptable.

Levels:

RCM Preliminary or equivalent
RCM Grade 1 or equivalent
RCM Grade 2 or equivalent
RCM Grade 3 or equivalent
RCM Grade 4 or equivalent
RCM Grade 5 or equivalent
RCM Grade 6 or equivalent
RCM Grade 7 or equivalent
RCM Grade 8 or equivalent
RCM Grade 9 or equivalent
RCM Grade 10 or equivalent
ARCT or equivalent
Open Class for students 19 and older

Ensemble Class:

Entries available at all levels from chamber groups within the VSO School of Music. Ensembles may perform no more than one (1) movement of a multi-movement work.

Fees

All ages/levels = \$32.00 submission fee per piece

Important Dates to Remember

Monday Dec 4, 2023

February 12-16, 2023

Saturday February 17, 2023

Deadline for applications

Festival for Strings. 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Celebration Recital 7:00 PM

Eligibility and Entry

- Entries will be accepted only from students currently enrolled in private lessons for their respective instrument at the VSO School of Music.

- All entrants must be of amateur status, defined as those persons whose principal income is not derived from musical services.
- The maximum age restriction is Grade 12 high school, except for the Open Class, which has no age restriction, and is suitable for adult students.
- Entrants are responsible for arranging their own accompanist(s). Accompanists are mandatory, except in unaccompanied classes.
- The maximum number of solo entries per student is two (2), both of which **MUST** be of the same RCM grade level or equivalent. Grade level refers to the **level of the piece that is being played**. Solo pieces have a time limit of no more than 5 minutes for RCM Preliminary to Grade 3, 10 minutes for RCM Grade 4 to Grade 9, 15 minutes for the RCM Grade 10 or above, and 10 minutes for the Open Class (adult students).
- Groups performing in the **Ensemble Class** will participate at the level of their Ensemble Class piece. Please indicate the approximate level of your ensemble piece when submitting online.
- Entrants must perform two (2) solo entries to be eligible for a trophy or scholarship.
- Entrants repeating a grade in successive years must change their repertoire selection.

Awards and Scholarships

Trophies are awarded in the Preliminary and Primary Divisions. Scholarships are awarded in the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions.

Entry Forms

- Entry forms are available online
 - Solo entries (including Sonata and Concerto): http://ca.apm.activecommunities.com/vsoschoolofmusic/Activity_Search/12643
 - Ensemble entries: http://ca.apm.activecommunities.com/vsoschoolofmusic/Activity_Search/12644
- Entries must be submitted by **Monday December 4, 2023 at 5:00pm**.
- Entrants should confirm prior to entry submission that they have no scheduling conflicts (e.g band trips) during Festival time. The Festival will not make changes or refunds for any reason other than Festival error, class cancellation (by Festival) or medical emergency (with a doctor's note).
- Names of selected works may not be changed after the entry has been submitted.

Performance

- The Adjudicator must be provided with an original copy of the score being performed. Photocopies or absent scores will result in adjudication only. No mark will

be given. Teachers are reminded to ensure that their students have music. Photocopies are only allowed with written permission from the publisher on out-of-print music.

- Music measures are to be numbered at the beginning of each line to assist the Adjudicator in making specific remarks. The entrant's name should be marked on the front of the score, and a page marker inserted at the first page of the piece to be played.
- Entrants in Solo classes (including unaccompanied Sonatas) are expected to perform from memory. The Adjudicator will be informed that entrants using music will only receive adjudication and no mark. This rule is applicable to all classes except for Ensemble and Sonata classes.
- Late arrivals to Festival Classes that are not present when they are called upon to perform will be called again at the end of the class performances. If not present at that time, the entrant will be considered a no-show, and will not be able to play at any later time.
- We ask for absolute silence in the hall during the performances. Attendees may be asked by staff to exit the hall if they are not able to maintain silence.
- In fairness to the Adjudicator, it is expected that all teachers refrain from identifying who their students are.
- All teachers should refrain from discussing student performances with the adjudicator. Adjudicators' decisions are to be respected and are not open for discussion.
- Recording equipment or photography of any kind is not allowed in the Festival classes. Teachers are asked to make parents aware of this rule. Please respect the privacy of our adjudicators and performers.
- Teachers may not give the convenor contact information to the public. Problems should be addressed to the convenor, Carla Birston, from the teacher.

Grading

All participating students will be awarded a certificate based on the Adjudicator's assessment of their performances. The categories are:

- Gold 88% and above
- Silver 84% to 87%
- Bronze 80% to 83%

Marks are not made public during the Festival. Certificates will not be publicly awarded but will be included with the adjudication sheet in the returned copy of the student's score.

Celebration Recital

- The Celebration recital is open to the public.
- Entrants who receive a gold medal may be invited to perform on the Celebration Recital, based on the adjudicator's highest marks. Any additional awards will be predetermined by the adjudicator and presented to the performers at the Celebration recital. The Celebration Recital has no competitive component.
- It is expected that any award recipient will be performing at the Celebration Recital.