

Canada West Performing Arts Festival

July 24-26, 2025

University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon

The Canada West Performing Arts Festival is a regional competition involving music and speech arts students from British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. To qualify for this competition, you must be recommended from one of these provinces at their provincial festival.

The 2025 Canada West Performing Arts Festival will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan from July 24 to 26, with choirs adjudicated virtually ahead of time. The primary venue is the Education Building (28 Campus Dr), with piano sessions taking place in Convocation Hall (107 Administration Pl). Venue maps will be posted on the website closer to the competition.

Please familiarize yourself with the rules found in our syllabus at canadawestfestival.ca.

How do I register?

Your provincial festival association will send you the registration link. **Registration is open until June 27 at 11:59 pm CST.**

How much does it cost to register?

The registration fee is \$250 for solo and chamber entries, and \$150 for choral entries. Competitors are responsible for all costs associated with the festival, including accompanists, entry fees, and travel.

What do I perform?

Competitors must perform a well-rounded program comprising works by different composers/authors representing various styles and periods. At least one selection that was performed at your provincial festival must be included in your program, and you may include any additional works that fit within the time limit. Time limits can be found at in the CWPFAF syllabus. You must introduce your program, including your name, your accompanist, and the titles and composers/authors of all your selections. Choral groups do not need to give an introduction.

What's included in the time limit?

Timing begins as soon as you begin your introduction and concludes as soon as the last note/syllable sounds – whether from you or your accompanist. This means that your time limit includes time between pieces, any costume changes, and applause breaks. If you wish, you may ask your audience to hold their applause until the end of your program. Long repeats (16+ measures) may be omitted to save time.

Do I need to perform from memory?

Yes, all solo competitors must perform from memory. Choral and chamber groups are not required to perform from memory.

How many copies of music should I bring?

You need to bring at least one set of original scores/authorized copies of your music/spoken word selections for the adjudicator to refer to during your performance. If you have an accompanist, they must also have original scores or authorized copies. If you're not playing from memory (because you're in a choir or chamber group), the music you are using must be original or an authorized copy. On the adjudicator's set, the first bar of each line of music, or fourth line in each spoken word selection, must be numbered. Using unauthorized photocopied music will result in disqualification.

Please be prepared to show proof of purchase for music downloaded from the internet. Music downloaded for free from IMSLP is fine.

Does it cost anything to attend?

Session attendance is by donation, with options for cash or card donation at the door.

Will there be a final concert?

Yes. The winners of each class will be invited to perform at a final concert to be held the evening of Saturday, July 26. We encourage all performers and members of the public to attend this concert!

Are warm-up rooms available?

Yes, warm-up rooms will be available for 15-minute slots over the course of the weekend. Once registration is closed and the schedule is finalized, a Google Sheet will be sent to all competitors so you can sign up ahead of time for your warm-up session.

How do I find an accompanist?

A list of available accompanists will be posted on the website in mid-June. It is up to you as the competitor to arrange for an accompanist and pay for all related fees.

Where can I stay?

There are a few hotels close to the university. Holiday Inn East and Staybridge Suites (both at 1838 College Dr) are the closest options. We've also reserved a block of rooms at Voyageur Place (91 Campus Dr), an on-campus dorm. Here you have the option of a single (one twin bed) or double (two twin beds) room, with shared washrooms. Room prices at VP range from \$75-\$90 per night, and all bookings include breakfast. Voyageur Place booking information will be posted on the website on June 1, with the booking window remaining open until June 27.

How do I get around in Saskatoon?

Saskatoon has an adequate bus system, and of course taxis and Ubers are always an option. If arriving by car or renting a car, please note that parking on Campus is only free in Lot F (directly across from the Education building) on weekends starting at 5:30 pm on Friday evening. Otherwise, you will need to pay for parking on campus.

For more information, contact the Provincial Administrator in your province:

Saskatchewan Music Festival Association: Carol Donhauser sask.music.festival@sasktel.net

Alberta Music Festival Association: Wendy Durieux wdurieux@gmail.com

Performing Arts BC: Antonia Mahon festival@bcprovincials.com

Note: This information page, while accurate, is informal. Please be familiar with the rules in the 2025 Canada West Performing Arts Festival Syllabus which can be found at <http://www.canadawestfestival.ca>.

