

CMC NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER – REGULATIONS 2026 – STRINGS, PIANO, PIANO FOUR HANDS/PIANO DUET AND CHAMBER MUSIC FOR STRINGS OR STRINGS AND PIANO

1. REGISTRATION

1. The Competition is open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. All participants must be prepared to provide valid proof of residency in Canada upon request. Exceptionally, one of the members of a chamber music and/or four-hand piano / piano-duet ensemble may be a foreign student. Foreign students must provide valid proof at the time of registration (scan or clear photo of study visa)
2. A participant may not register in two different categories with the same instrument. However, they may register simultaneously in:
 - Solo
 - Chamber music
 - Piano four-hands / piano duet

Registering in several ensembles is permitted if the instrumental formation differs.

3. Proof of age is required at the time of registration. Acceptable proof includes: birth certificate, passport, health insurance card, driver's licence, citizenship certificate, or permanent resident card.
4. At the time of registration, the candidate must have read and accepted the Competition's Code of Ethics. Consult the [Code of Ethics](#)
5. Participants agree to follow current public-health guidelines.
6. All complete registrations received before the deadline will normally be accepted; however, the CMC reserves the right to limit registrations if capacity is reached

2. DEADLINE AND FEES

1. The completed registration form and all required documents must be received electronically no later than **January 30, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. (Atlantic Time)**.
2. Registrations received after this date and time will not be accepted.

3. The registration fee for the 2026 CMC Nova Scotia National Audition is **\$150 CAD**, payable in full at registration and non-refundable.
4. Additional fees may apply for participants admitted to the National Final, as outlined in the rules and regulations of the Final Round.
5. Donations made during registration or at any other time are non-refundable.

3. AGE CATEGORIES

1. Candidates must not exceed the maximum age for their category as of January 1, 2026. This rule applies to all categories except for "chamber music [for strings and piano]" and "piano four hands/piano duet", for which one of the participants may be one year older than the age category.
2. The 2026 CMC Nova Scotia Chapter National Audition will be open to strings, piano, chamber music for strings/or strings and piano and includes four age categories as follows:
 - 7–10 years
 - 11–14 years
 - 15–18 years
 - 19–25 years

There is no minimum age in the youngest category for any instrument.

4. REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

1. Participants must perform two or more contrasting works showcasing various tempi and stylistic periods. At least one Baroque or Classical work must be included. No concerted works requiring a second piano will be permitted.
 - Piano – Strings: Memorization is required for all selections, with the exception of sonatas for strings with piano accompaniment, for which the use of the score is permitted. Exceptions may be made for contemporary works – please contact the provincial office for further information. At the National Finals, memorization is mandatory.

- Chamber Music – Piano Four Hands / Piano Duet: Use of the score is permitted.

2. Performance Time limits

- 7–10 years: 15 minutes
- 11–14 years: 20 minutes
- 15–18 years: 30 minutes
- 19–25/29 years: 40 minutes

3. Applicants must adhere to the time limits specified for their age category. If a candidate exceeds the allotted time, the jury may interrupt their performance.

Scores for any contemporary works after 1955 must be submitted at the time of registration.

For participants requiring a special setup (e.g. pedal extension), please indicate this to CMC Nova Scotia Chapter Coordinator to allow for setup time before the performance (see “Other Information”)

Changes to the proposed repertoire will be permitted until February 20th, 2026.

4. Candidates who qualify for the Final Round will be required to perform one concerto movement at the final round. Works originally written for orchestra must be accompanied by piano. Time limits for the Final Round are specified in the rules and regulations for that round on the CMC National website.
5. The repertoire to be performed must be provided at registration. However, the order of pieces may be modified. On the audition day, candidates must provide a list presenting the final order of their pieces.

5. COMPETITION PROCEDURE

1. The competition consists of the **Nova Scotia National Audition round** and **National Final**.
2. Participants agree to be available for the entire duration of the National Audition Round (April 25 to 26th, 2026) and, if selected, for the National Final on the specific dates for the competition of their age category/instrument. The National

Final will take place in Montréal at the Conservatoire de Montréal from July 2nd to 10th, 2026.

3. A candidate who is absent at the scheduled time of their hearing will be disqualified. Any request for a schedule change received after the publication of the official schedule will be refused.
4. On audition day, participants must provide three (3) printed copies of each work, with measure numbers at the beginning of each line. Each copy must include:
 - Title of work
 - Movement number
 - Composer's name
 - Participant's name.

Accompanied works must include the accompaniment part.

6. PUNCTUALITY

1. Candidates must indicate their presence at least fifteen minutes before the time of their invitation for their competition.
2. The schedule may be modified according to the evolution of public health directives. Candidates may be summoned at a specific time; an applicant who does not comply with this directive may be disqualified.
3. Access to a warm-up/practice room is not guaranteed.

7. EVALUATION AND RESULTS

1. During the National Audition, each participant will be evaluated by a professional jury composed of two professional judges. Each jury member will provide an individual grade and the final grade of the candidate will be determined by the average of these grades.
2. The jury may then select up to a maximum of 4 candidates to proceed to the National Final. The minimum grade for proceeding to the National Final is 90%. Grades and results will be announced. Up to one alternate may be selected for each category, where possible.

3. Jury decisions are final and may not be appealed.
4. The evaluation system for the National Final will be outlined in the rules and regulations specific to the Final Round.
5. The results of the Provincial Round and the National Final are not cumulative.

8. PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL AWARDS

1. National Scholarships are awarded based on the results of the National Audition. Each section or province administers its own scholarship policy.
2. Grand Prize winners in the Final Round for the age categories 7–10, 11–14, 15–18, and 19–25 will be invited to perform with Canadian orchestras.

All travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the participants.

3. Participants aged 13 or older who receive a scholarship of CAD \$500 or more are responsible for any applicable taxes and duties under federal and provincial tax legislation. They will be required to provide their Social Insurance Number for the issuance of a Relevé 1 and/or T4A form.

9. EXPENSES

1. Applicants are responsible for all travel, accommodation and accompanying person's expenses.

10. PHOTOGRAPHY/AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING

1. During the competition, taking photos or filming candidates other than one's own child is strictly prohibited.
2. The photographer(s) and videographer(s) mandated by the Competition are authorized to photograph and/or film the performances.
3. Candidates are required to grant the CMC all rights to record, broadcast and reproduce their performances, as well as resale rights, for an indefinite period. By submitting the registration form, candidates acknowledge and accept these conditions. The CMC reserves the right to use these recordings and images for promotional and archival purposes.

11. PIANO

1. The use of a pedal extension system is permitted but must be authorized in advance by the section or national office

12. ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

1. Any candidate who fails to comply with the rules will be disqualified.
2. Any false declaration on the part of a candidate will result in disqualification.
3. Unauthorized use of the audition room and/or piano is strictly forbidden and will result in disqualification.

13. OTHER

1. Any matter not provided for in these rules shall be referred to the Board of Directors, whose decisions shall be final and without appeal.