

Vancouver International Music Festival

Competition 2026

Competition Format

The 2026 Vancouver International Music Competition consists of two rounds:

- **Preliminary Round:** Video submission only
 - **Final Round:** In-person performance only
-

Important Dates & Fees

Preliminary Round (Video Submission)

- Application Deadline: **June 15, 2026 – 11:59 PM (Pacific Time)**
- Video Submission Deadline: **June 15, 2026 – 11:59 PM (Pacific Time)**
- **Preliminary Round Application Fee: \$150 CAD**
- **Final Round Application Fee: \$100 CAD (by invitation only)**

Final Round (In Person)

- Dates: **October 9-10, 2026**
- Venue: **Pyatt Hall, VSO School of Music, Vancouver, Canada**

Gala Concert & Awards Ceremony

- Date & Time: **October 11, 2026 – 2:00 PM**
 - Venue: **Orpheum Theatre, Vancouver, BC**
-

Competition Categories

Piano

Strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp, guitar)

Woodwinds (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone)

Voice

Age Categories

(Age as of **June 30, 2026**)

- **Junior Talent:** 8 years old and under
Not eligible for Woodwinds or Voice
 - **Young Talent:** Ages 9–12
Not eligible for Voice
 - **Young Artists:** Ages 13–17
 - **Artists:** Ages 18–35
-

Repertoire Requirements

5a. Instrumental Repertoire Guidelines

Preliminary Round (Video Submission)

- Candidates must perform **two contrasting works of different musical styles**, including **at least one Baroque or Classical piece**.

Additional Notes

- One movement of a multi-movement work (e.g., a sonata or concerto) is considered **one piece**.
- Exceeding the time limit may result in deductions at the discretion of the jury.
- Arrangements, simplified or modified editions, transpositions, and popular music are **not permitted**.
- Certain arranged harp compositions may be accepted with prior approval from the VIMC Committee.
- **All repertoire must be performed by memory** in both the preliminary and final rounds.

Final Round (In Person)

- Candidates may perform **one or two works of their choice**, provided the total performance remains within the time limit.
- **Piano Category:** Candidates may perform **one work only**.
- Repertoire from the preliminary round **may be performed in the final round**.

Special Award Consideration

- Candidates who perform a **Canadian composition in the final round** will receive an opportunity to win an award for the **Best Interpretation of a Canadian Work**.
-

5b. Voice-Specific Repertoire Guidelines

Eligibility

- Open to **Young Artists (ages 13–17)** and **Artists (ages 18–35)**.

Preliminary Round (Video Submission)

- Candidates must perform **two contrasting art songs or arias**.
- The selected repertoire must include **at least one Baroque or Classical work**.

Language & Style

- **two contrasting musical styles** are strongly recommended.
- Opera arias, oratorio arias, and art songs are acceptable.

Additional Notes

- **All vocal repertoires must be performed by memory** in both the preliminary and final rounds.
 - Transposed keys are permitted for vocal repertoire.
 - Musical theatre, pop, crossover, and amplified repertoire are **not permitted**.
 - One aria or art song is considered **one piece**.
 - Exceeding the time limit may result in deductions at the discretion of the jury.
-

Preliminary Round (Video)

Time Limits

- Junior Talent: **8 minutes**
- Young Talent: **10 minutes**
- Young Artists: **12 minutes**
- Artists: **15 minutes**

Candidates exceeding the time limit may receive score deductions at the discretion of the jury.

Final Round (In Person)

- Candidates may perform **one or two works**, provided the total performance remains within the time limit.
- This flexibility allows candidates to present a balanced and artistically complete program while accommodating varied repertoire structures across instruments.

Final Round Time Limits

- Junior Talent: **6 minutes**
- Young Talent: **8 minutes**
- Young Artists: **10 minutes**
- Artists: **12 minutes**

Repertoire from the preliminary round **may be performed in the final round.**

Canadian Composition Award

Candidates who perform a **Canadian composition in the final round** will receive an opportunity to win an award for the **Best Performance of a Canadian Composition.**

Scores & Performance Rules

- **Da Capo and Dal Segno repeats must be observed;** other repeat markings may be omitted at the candidate's discretion.
 - For the final round, candidates must provide an **original score** for jury reference.
 - Candidates in the **Piano and Strings** categories must provide **two additional copies**, clearly labeled with the candidate's name and age category.
-

General Regulations

- The VIMC is governed by its Board of Directors and Executive Committee.
- All decisions made by the jury and Executive Committee are final.
- The VIMC reserves the right to amend rules, schedules, or regulations, with updates posted on the official website.
- The competition promotes diversity and does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, or political association.
- Candidates agree to release the VIMC from liability related to participation, performances, and recordings.
- The VIMC may use photos and recordings for promotional purposes unless otherwise notified.
- First Prize winners are not eligible to compete in the immediately following VIMC edition.
- Jury members may not adjudicate their current or former students (excluding masterclasses).
- Candidates may not communicate with jury members during the competition; violations may result in disqualification.

- During the final round, it is forbidden from the Candidates and participating third parties, which include but are not limited to parents, teachers, piano accompanists, etc. to take pictures or to film.
- The photographer(s) and videographer(s) commissioned by the Competition are authorized to photograph and/or film the performances.