



AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

AAA FESTIVAL July 9-13, 2014

Contest Rules and Required Composition List

Double Tree by Hilton Tarrytown • 455 South Broadway • Tarrytown, NY 10591

For reservations: 1-800-474-4260. Reservation Code: AAF

Please mention American Accordionists' Association and NOT AAA.

Reduced room rates are \$134 per night **includes free parking**

Categories include Standard and Open Solos and Duets, as well as Open Ensembles and Bands. Contestants in standard categories must choose a selection from the Standard Music List. All the other categories are Open – which means you can play ANYTHING you wish except in the Ethnic, Pop and Jazz categories, where the style of music is designated.

MUSIC LIST FOR STANDARD CATEGORIES

Standard Solo Prep

Tiny Tim MO8A
March of the Boy Scouts MO12A

Standard Solo Elementary

Lazy Daisy OP9520
Junior Polka ED803

Standard Solo Intermediate

Video March MO70
Princess Waltz ED180

Standard Solo Advanced

Trickling Keys ED471
Study in Hi Fi MO85A

Standard Duet Elementary

Valse Dorinda OP7987/6
Asparagus Tips OP7987/2

Standard Duet Intermediate

Country Dance AR6001/12
Whispering Hope AR6001/8

Standard Duet Advanced

Skaters Waltz AR5003
Gypsy Love Song AR6002/2

All music may be ordered from: Ernest Deffner Publications, P.O. Box 11663, Alexandria, VA 22312 USA, Phone: 703-941-9300, Fax: 703-941-9301
Website: www.ernestdeffner.com

COMPETITION CATEGORIES AND TIME LIMITS

OPEN CATEGORIES

Elsie M. Bennett Original Composition

Competition see rules

Open Juniorette Solo – up to 9 3 min.

Open Junior Solo – up to 12 5 min.

Open Intermediate Solo – up to 15 6 min.

Open Senior Solo – 16 & over 8 min.

Open Founder's Jrette. Solo - up to 9 .. 3 min.

Open Founder's Jr. Solo - up to 12 ... 5 min.

Open Founder's Int. Solo - up to 15 ... 6 min.

Open Founder's Sr. Solo - 16 & over... 8 min.

Open Ethnic Jrette. Solo – up to 9. 3 min.

Open Ethnic Jr. Solo – up to 12. 4 min.

Open Ethnic Int. Solo – up to 15. 5 min.

Open Ethnic Sr. Solo – 16 & over 6 min.

Open Pop Jrette. Solo – up to 9 3 min.

Open Pop Jr. Solo – up to 12 4 min.

Open Pop Int. Solo – up to 15. 5 min.

Open Pop Sr. Solo – 16 & over 6 min.

Open Jr. Jazz Solo – up to 15. 3 min.

Open Sr. Jazz Solo – 16 & Over 5 min.

Open Juniorette Duet – up to 9 3 min.

Open Junior Duet – up to 12 5 min.

Open Intermediate Duet – up to 15 6 min.

Open Senior Duet – 16 & Over 8 min.

Open Adult Duet 8 min.

Open Mixed Duet 6 min.

Open Junior Ensemble – up to 12 6 min.

Open Senior Ensemble – Pro/Am 10 min.

Open Junior Band – up to 12 8 min.

Open Senior Band – Pro/Am 12 min.

Festival Band – Pro/Am 15 min.

Evaluation Solo 3 min

Adult Open Solo 6 min.

Adult Ethnic Solo 5 min.

Adult Pop Solo 5 min.

Adult Founder's Solo 6 min.

Adult Jazz Solo 5 min.

STANDARD CATEGORIES

See Standard Music List

Standard Solo Prep

Standard Solo Elementary

Standard Solo Intermediate

Standard Solo Advanced

Standard Duet Elementary

Standard Duet Intermediate

Standard Duet Advanced

Contest Chairman, Mary Tokarski

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E-mail: ameraccord1938@gmail.com OR mary.tokarski@comcast.net • www.ameraccord.com

GENERAL RULES

REGISTRATION - \$35 Registration Fee is required for each contestant in the Festival which includes up to five (5) family members who live in the same household. This entitles the family to one journal, and badges for each family member which will allow entrance to competition rooms, exhibits and workshops.

CLOSING DATE - The official contest closing date for entry forms and full payment is June 7, 2014.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. Contestants who are studying accordion must be entered by their music teacher or the music school where they study. If the teacher is not a full AAA member, a fee equal to membership dues (\$65) must accompany the applications and entry fees. Contestants who are not currently studying with an AAA member/teacher, may enter themselves provided they (the contestant) are AAA members or have paid a fee equal to membership annual dues (\$65) in addition to entry fees.
2. Entries MUST be accompanied by the appropriate entry fees which are non-refundable. Payment for entry fees must be submitted by the sponsoring teacher on ONE check for the entire amount made payable to "AAA". Individual student checks will only be accepted if the student is a member of AAA as stated in #1 above.
3. If possible, the Contest Committee will accept late entries, provided they are accompanied by a \$10.00 late fee per entry.

ANY ENTRY NOT FULLY COMPLETED WILL BE REFUSED.

RESTRICTIONS - Contestant may not repeat any selection(s) with which they won first place in a national AAA Competition during the past two (2) years. A photocopy of printed music is illegal. Those who submit photocopies of music which is available in published form will be disqualified.

CATEGORIES - The Contest Committee reserves the right to combine or divide similar categories, as may be warranted by number of entries.

PLAYING POSITION - A contest schedule will be e-mailed indicating time, date and place of all performances. Playing positions will be determined by the Contest Committee. No changes or substitutions are permitted.

JUDGING - The following criteria is considered in judging a performance: correct tempi, coordination of both hands, time values, accuracy of notes, phrasing, right and left hand technique, articulation, interpretation of music, dynamics, musicianship and overall performance, memorization (where required). The decision of the Judge(s) is final.

PENALTIES - Failure to comply with the rules for any category may result in: A. Disqualification, B. Loss of points, C. Forfeiture of award, D. Other as the occasion demands.

COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS - A signed letter by the complainant must be submitted to the Contest Chairman within ten (10) days after the contest. A protest fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) must accompany the letter.

SUPERVISION - Festival and competition are under the auspices of the American Accordionists' Association. The competition is governed by the Contest Committee of the American Accordionists' Association, which shall have final jurisdiction over any question.

RESPONSIBILITY - The American Accordionists' Association is not responsible for any delay, bodily injury, loss or damage to the property of participating contestants or spectators. A signed entry form shall indicate the competitor's agreement to the foregoing.

DEFINITIONS

ACCORDION BAND - At least eight (8) accordionists are required. In addition, percussion, amplification and electronic accordions are permitted.

ACCORDION ENSEMBLE - At least three (3) and not more than seven (7) accordionists are required. In addition, amplification and one (1) percussionist is permitted.

AGE LIMITS

1. Adults may enter all categories except those indicating age restrictions.
2. Solo and Duet contestants may not be older than the age limit stipulated for the category as of June 7, 2014, the closing date of entries. For Band and Ensemble categories, the contestant's age is determined as of January 1st of the contest year.
3. Contestants are permitted to enter any category over their age, providing the entry is in conformity with the contest rules, but not two (2) categories of the same type.

AMATEUR - One who does not earn his/her living through playing or teaching the accordion and/or who is not a member of the Musician's Union.

AWARDS - First-, second- and third-place winners will receive an award. The award, dependent upon the category, may be in the form

of trophy, plaque, medal, ribbon, certificate, scholarship or cash. Each member of first-, second- and third-place winning duets and ensembles will receive an award. Honorable mention will be awarded to fourth- and fifth-place solo winners. All awards will be presented at the Awards Concert during the Festival. Those not picked up at the Awards Concert will be forfeited. We will NOT mail trophies.

OPEN CATEGORIES - Contestant may choose the music.

OPEN SOLO - Contestant may play anything they wish except Ethnic, Pop or Jazz selections.

FOUNDER'S SOLO - Any composition written by Magnante, Biviano, Deiro, Von Hallberg, Gart, Frosini, Galla-Rini or Nunzio.

OPEN ETHNIC SOLO - Any polka or ethnic selection.

OPEN POP SOLO - Any current or "traditional" pop selection. This category is not for jazz.

OPEN JAZZ SOLO - Any current or traditional "jazz" selection.

OPEN DUET, ENSEMBLE, BAND - Contestant may play anything they wish.

MIXED DUET - Must consist of accordion and any other instrument or voice.

STANDARD CATEGORIES - Contestant must play music from the Music List for Standard Categories.

COUPE MONDIALE QUALIFYING CATEGORIES

Contestants seeking to represent the US/AAA at the 2014 Coupe Mondiale in Salzburg, Austria must qualify at the AAA Festival, July 9-13, 2014 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Tarrytown, NY - Time and Day to be announced. Coupe Mondiale Rules will prevail (see: http://www.coupemondiale.org/2014/at_rules_oma.htm)

The following categories will require qualification (no exceptions):

67th Coupe Mondiale
Masters Coupe Mondiale
Junior Coupe Mondiale
Virtuoso Entertainment

Junior Virtuoso Entertainment
International Ensemble Music Competition
International Digital Accordion Competition
Original Composition Award (Original Solo Work)

CATEGORIES - Awards, Fees, Music and Performance Requirements

STANDARD SOLOS

Entry Fee – \$25.00

Awards: First-, second- and third-place winners will receive trophies; fourth- and fifth-place winners will receive ribbons.

Music and Performance Requirements

1. Contestant must perform a selection from the Music List for Standard Categories for each category entered.
2. Contestant must provide a clean copy of published music for the judge.
3. Music must be performed from memory.
4. Repeats are optional, unless specified in the Music List.
5. Standard Solo contestants MAY enter the Open Ethnic, Open Pop, Open Jazz & Evaluation categories as there are no standard categories for these selections. They may NOT, however, enter the Open Solo, Founder's Solo or Original Solo categories.

STANDARD DUET

Entry Fees - \$12.00 per member (\$24.00 per entry)

Awards: First-, second- and third-place winners will receive a trophy for each member.

Music and Performance Requirements

1. Contestants must perform a selection from the Music List for Standard Duets.
2. Contestants must provide a clean copy of music for the judge(s).
3. Music memorization is optional.
4. Repeats are optional.
5. Contestants entering Standard Duet may NOT enter the Open Duet Category.

OPEN SOLOS – Open Solo, Founder's Solo, Open Ethnic and Open Pop. Each Open Solo Category is based upon the contestant's age. *See Age and Time Limits.* (Juniorette - up to 9 years of age; Junior - up to 12; Intermediate - up to 15; Senior - age 16 and over). Contestant may enter any or all Open Solo categories provided the age is appropriate. They may NOT enter Standard Solo or Standard Duet categories.

Entry Fee: - \$25.00 per category

Awards: First-, second- and third-place winners will receive trophies; fourth- and fifth-place winners will receive ribbons.

Eligibility: Competitor may not be older than the age limit of his/her Category on the closing date of entries. It is permitted for a Contestant to enter a Category of a higher age than he/she is, but not both.

Music and Performance Requirements

1. Contestant may choose the music he/she will perform.
OPEN SOLO – Contestant may play anything they wish, except Ethnic, Pop or Jazz selections.
FOUNDER'S SOLO - Contestant may play anything they wish that was written by one of the AAA Founders including Magnante, Biviano, Deiro, Von Hallberg, Gart, Frosini, Galla-Rini or Nunzio.
OPEN ETHNIC – Any polka or ethnic selection.
OPEN POP – Any current or "traditional" pop selection. This category is not for jazz.
2. Music should be played from memory in all Solo categories.
3. Contestant must provide a clean copy of published music for the judge; unpublished compositions or arrangements may be submitted in manuscript form. Music or lead sheet optional for Pop Solo.

4. Open Solo Contestants may not enter any Standard Solo Category. They may enter any or all Open Solo Categories. Anyone may enter Evaluation.
5. Contestants playing more than 30 seconds past the time limit will be subject to a point penalty to be determined by the Contest Committee.

See Age and Time Limits (maximums).

OPEN JAZZ SOLO - Two divisions: Junior (up to and including age 15) and Senior (16 and over)

Entry Fee - \$25.00

Awards: First-, second- and third-place winners will receive trophies; fourth- and fifth-place winners will receive ribbons.

Eligibility: Competitor may not be older than the age limit of his/her Category on the closing date of entries. It is permitted for a Contestant to enter a Category of a higher age than he/she is, but not both.

Music and Performance Requirements

1. Contestant may choose the music he/she will perform, (see guidelines under "Definitions").
2. Music should be played from memory in all Solo categories.
3. Music or lead sheet optional for Jazz Solo.

See Age and Time Limits (maximums)

ADULT CATEGORIES (Open, Ethnic, Pop, Founder's and Jazz)

Entry Fee – \$25.00

Awards: First-, second- and third-place winners will receive trophies; fourth- and fifth-place winners will receive ribbons.

Music and Performance Requirements

1. There are five Open Adult Categories: 1) ADULT OPEN – music is own choice; 2) ADULT ETHNIC – play any polka or ethnic selection; 3) ADULT POP – play any traditional or current "pop" selection; 4) ADULT FOUNDER'S - any composition written by AAA Founders including Magnante, Biviano, Deiro, Von Hallberg, Gart, Frosini, Galla-Rini or Nunzio; 5) ADULT JAZZ – (see OPEN JAZZ SOLO above)
2. Music must be performed from memory.
3. Contestant must provide a clean copy of published music for the judge; unpublished compositions or arrangements may be submitted in manuscript form. Music or lead sheet optional for Pop Solo.

OPEN DUETS

OPEN DUET - Juniorette, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Adult
OPEN MIXED DUET

See Age and Time Limits (maximums)

Entry Fees - \$12.00 per member (\$24.00 per entry)

Awards: First-, second- and third-place winners will receive a trophy for each member.

Eligibility: Competitors must not be over the age limit of their Category, determined as of the closing date of entries (June 7, 2014).

Music and Performance Requirements

1. There is no restriction to the music performed.
2. Contestant must provide a clean copy of music for the judge; manuscripts will be accepted only for unpublished music.
3. Music memorization is optional.
4. Contestants entering Open Duet may NOT enter Standard Duet.

See Age and Time Limits (maximums)

BANDS & ENSEMBLES

OPEN ENSEMBLE – Junior, Senior

OPEN BAND – Junior, Senior

Entry Fees - \$60.00

Awards: First-, second- and third-place winning bands will receive a trophy. Each member of winning ensembles will receive a trophy.

Eligibility: The Contestant's age for Band and Ensemble Categories is determined as of January 1st of the contest year.

Music and Performance Requirements

1. There is no restriction to the music performed.
2. Contestant must provide two (2) published scores for the judges. Manuscripts will be accepted only if the work is unpublished.
3. Contestants may enter as many Band and Ensemble Categories as they wish, within their age limit.

Set-up Time for Ensembles and Bands: Ensembles: 8 minutes; Bands: 12 minutes

A two-minute check for amplification and tonal balance is allowed additionally. A one (1) point penalty, per judge, will be assessed against any group exceeding specified set-up time.

See Age and Time Limits (maximums)

ENTERTAINMENT AAA (Professional or Amateur)

Entry Fee - \$60.00

Awards: Non-competitive. Each group will receive a Participation Award.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Delivery: Elements such as poise, style, showmanship are considered.
2. Effectiveness: The ability to hold the attention of an audience.
3. Material: The material selected should display the accordion to its best advantage.
4. Musicality and technique: An evaluation of musicality and technical proficiency as a unit in the art form presented.
5. Entertainment quality.
6. Special effects.
7. Vocals and dancing (if used).

Music and Performance Requirements

1. There is no restriction to the music performed.
2. Emphasis must be on the entertainment value of the accordion.
3. Costumes, vocals, dancers, decorated stands, special lighting and props are permitted. (Due to limited space and set-up times, props should be kept to a minimum.)
4. Tapes may be used for special effects, not musical portions.
5. Stationary props are not permitted.
6. Other instruments may be used, however, the accordion performance must dominate.
7. Lead sheet or score not required.

Set-up Time – 6 minutes

Time Limit – 15 minutes (maximum)

EVALUATION SOLO

Entry Fee - \$25.00

Awards: Participants receive an Award with Rating based on their individual performance.

Music and Performance Requirements

1. Non competitive.
2. No age restriction.
3. Contestant may choose any style of music.
4. Performance in this category is private permitting discussion between adjudicator and contestant. Guests of the performer's choice may be allowed in the room at the time of the contestant's evaluation.

Time Limit – 3 minutes

THE ELSIE M. BENNETT COMPOSITION COMPETITION FOR ASPIRING COMPOSERS

Purpose: The general purpose of this competition is to encourage young students of the accordion and those who would like to work with and explore the many voices of the accordion to create literature for accordion, either as a solo instrument, or with other instruments. There is no directive for the style of the composition, ONLY that it is written for the acoustic accordion, not electronic accordion.

Awards: There will be first, second and third place awards presented when entries merit them. The AAA reserves the right to grant less or no awards based on the quality of the submissions. A cash award in the amount of \$150 will be presented to the first place winner in each category.

Judging: A panel of prominent accordionists and composers will be assembled by the AAA to judge all submissions. The decision of the judges will be final.

COMPETITION RULES:

1. The Composer must be sponsored by an AAA member or pay the annual \$65 AAA membership fee to submit a composition. Entry fee of \$35 must accompany each submission.
2. Requirements:
Junior Composers – up to the age of 15. The length of the submission must be a minimum of 32 measures and a maximum of 3 minutes in length of performance.
Senior Composers – ages 16 and over. The length of the submission must be a minimum of 1 1/2 minutes and a maximum of 4 minutes.
3. All levels must be notated on manuscript paper by the entrant or computer generated by the entrant. Entrant MUST submit 2 copies of the manuscript, and 2 copies of a recording of the music (CD preferred).

Winning Compositions will receive:

1. An opportunity to have the music performed at an AAA event. The composer may play it personally, select someone to perform it, or ask the AAA to select a performer.
2. Junior & Senior Levels: The possibility of publication, provided the composition meets the approval of the judges as appropriate publishable material.
3. The winning compositions will be announced in various AAA publications and on the worldwide accordion websites.

Submission Requirements:

1. Each composer may enter only ONE category. No more than one composition may be submitted by one composer.
2. Score MUST be legible...preferably done on a music publishing program such as Finale or Sibelius.
3. Two (2) copies of the score must be sent in hard copy. In addition, two recordings of the submission either on CDs, or electronically via email, must accompany the score.
4. Composer's name must NOT appear on the score or any CD that is submitted, only the name of the composition, the age of the composer, and the category entered.
5. Send entry form, entry fee, CD or MP3 and score to: Mary Tokarski, 15 Maplewood Lane • Northford, CT 06472

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: June 1, 2014 – Winners will be notified by e-mail on or about June 21st, 2014. Winners are encouraged to perform their compositions at the AAA Festival in Tarrytown, NY, July 9-13, 2014. If the composer is NOT an accordionist, arrangements can be made to have the music performed at the festival.

The AAA reserves the right NOT to award any prize if the contestant does not meet the following scoring guidelines:
1st place -- 95 or higher, 2nd and 3rd place -- 90 or higher,
and 4th & 5th place -- 85 or higher.