

AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

AAA Virtual Festival July 11-17, 2021

Contest Rules and Required Composition List

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

<p>STANDARD SOLOS</p> <p>Standard Solo Prep Frogs and Frills.....ED86 Captain Kangaroo.....MO12B</p> <p>Standard Solo Elementary Elbow Polka.....OP4272 Cadets March.....MO5A</p> <p>Standard Solo Intermediate Twin City Polka.....MO45A Ferryboat Polka.....MO44</p> <p>Standard Solo Advanced Trickling Keys.....ED471 Study in Hi Fi.....MO85A</p>	<p>STANDARD DUETS</p> <p>Standard Duet Elementary Western Round-Up.....MO1C-B/P Junior Polka.....ED803D</p> <p>Standard Duet Intermediate Two Busy Beavers.....AR5014 Campus March.....AR6001/11</p> <p>Standard Duet Advanced Skaters Waltz.....AR5003 Gypsy Love Song.....AR6002/2</p>
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COMPETITION CATEGORIES AND TIME LIMITS

<p>OPEN CATEGORIES</p> <p>Open Pop Int. Solo – up to 15. 3 min. Open Pop Sr. Solo – 16 & over. 4 min.</p> <p>Open Jr. Jazz Solo – up to 15. 3 min. Open Sr. Jazz Solo – 16 & Over. 5 min.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Open Pop Jrette. Solo – up to 9. 3 min. Open Pop Jr. Solo – up to 12. 4 min.</p>	<p>Open Pop Int. Solo – up to 15. 5 min. Open Pop Sr. Solo – 16 & over. 6 min.</p> <p>Open Jr. Jazz Solo – up to 15. 3 min. Open Sr. Jazz Solo – 16 & Over. 5 min.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Open Mixed Duet 6 min.</p> <p>Open Junior Ensemble – up to 12. 6 min. Open Senior Ensemble – Pro/Am. 10 min.</p> <p>Open Junior Band – up to 12. 8 min. Open Senior Band – Pro/Am. 12 min.</p> <p>Festival Band – Pro/Am. 15 min.</p>	<p>Evaluation Solo. 3 min.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Entertainment AAA. see page 4</p> <p>STANDARD CATEGORIES <i>See Standard Music List above</i></p> <p>Standard Solo Prep Standard Solo Elementary Standard Solo Intermediate Standard Solo Advanced</p> <p>Standard Duet Elementary Standard Duet Intermediate Standard Duet Advanced</p>
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These awards will be presented on a merit basis. See details on page 4.
Only Honors Categories, Bands and Ensembles are competitive.
See Honors Category Band and Ensemble Rules.

GENERAL RULES

EXCEPTION: The Honors Categories, Bands and Ensembles.

REGISTRATION – No registration required.

CLOSING DATE for entries: June 1, 2021.

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 nonrefundable. 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. Music requirements will be noted in the Virtual Instructions.

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

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.

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 the closing date of entries (see above). 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 – EXCEPTION the New Honors Categories, Bands and Ensembles– See separate rules on page 3.

Awards for all Solo and Duet categories will reflect a merit award system. Contestants will be scored on the Individual's performance only. Judges will take into consideration the age of the contestant, years of study and overall Musical excellence. Music chosen must be in compliance with the rules for the category entered. Competitors achieving a score of 95-100 will receive a trophy, those achieving 90-94 will receive a silver medal, 85-89 will receive a bronze medal. Each performer will receive a participation award in the form of a trophy or medal as described above.

With this system of adjudication, it is possible that EVERY competitor in a category could receive a trophy, or EVERY competitor could receive a medal. Results will be on the merit of the performance only!

Each member of duets and ensembles will receive a trophy or medal as described above.

Awards will be presented in a Virtual Ceremony, date to be determined.

Awards will be forwarded to teachers.

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 – Contestants 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. Honors category contestants MAY NOT enter any Standard Categories.

CATEGORIES – Awards, Fees, Music and Performance Requirements

Memorization for all solos is preferred, but not required.

See Separate Rules for Honors Categories

Awards for all Solo and Duet categories will reflect a merit award system. Contestants will be scored on the Individual's performance only. Judges will take into consideration the age of the contestant, years of study and overall Musical excellence. Music chosen must be in compliance with the rules for the category entered. Competitors achieving a score of 95-100 will receive a trophy, those achieving 90-94 will receive a silver medal, 85-89 will receive a bronze medal. Each performer will receive a participation award in the form of a trophy or medal as described above.

With this system of adjudication, it is possible that EVERY competitor in a category could receive a trophy, or EVERY competitor could receive a medal.

Results will be on the merit of the performance only!

Each member of duets and ensembles will receive a trophy or medal as described above.

All awards will be presented at a Virtual Ceremony – Date to be determined. Awards will be forwarded to Teachers.

STANDARD SOLOS

Entry Fee – \$30.00

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. Memorization for all solos is preferred, but not required.
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 or Founder's Solo categories.

STANDARD DUET

Entry Fees - \$18.00 per member (\$36.00 per entry)

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. Memorization for all solos is preferred, but not required.
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: - \$30.00 per category

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 any classical, traditional or contemporary accordion selection 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 - 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. Memorization for all solos is preferred, but not required.
 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 - \$30.00

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. Memorization for all solos is preferred, but not required.
3. Music or lead sheet optional for Jazz Solo.

See *Age and Time Limits (maximums)*

AAA HONORS CATEGORIES 2021

Rules and Regulations

Entry Fee: The Contestant must be sponsored by an AAA member or pay the annual \$65 AAA membership fee in order to compete. Entry fee of \$30 must accompany the fully completed Entry Form (below) plus the additional \$65 for a non-sponsored entry. Entries not fully completed will not be accepted.

Age Limits: Select only one

Juniorette (up to 9) – Time limit for performance 5 minutes

Junior (up to 12) - Time limit for performance 8 minutes

Intermediate (up to 15) - Time limit for performance 12 minutes

Senior (16 and over) - Time limit for performance 15 minutes

Virtuoso (up to 32) - Time limit for performance 20 minutes

Adult (no age restrictions) - Time limit for performance 15 minutes

Required Music: List for Honors Categories: Must perform ONE of the pieces indicated below

Juniorette:	Velocity, Ferraro Carousel, Sayer
Junior:	Autumn Breezes, Frosini Sea Breeze, Cere
Intermediate:	Cascade, Carrozza Tail Spin, Frosini
Senior:	Pioneer Concerto, Ettore Four Nocturnes, Bennett
Virtuoso:	Omaggio A Pietro, Frosini Remembering A Legend, Charles Magnante, Schimmel Partita, Tcherepnin
Adult:	Rondo Movement from Concerto in E, Deiro Tranquillo Overture, Deiro Prelude & Scherzo, Ettore

All music is available for purchase through ernestdeffner.com by clicking the "Click Here for Music for the AAA Festival" text in the slider window – or at the following link:

<https://ernestdeffner.com/shop-online/music-method-books/americanaccordionistsassoc-83.html>

Choice Piece: Must be classical, open or original music for accordion – no pop, ethnic or jazz is allowed.

Prizes: Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category. In addition, a cash award will be presented to the 1st place winner in each category. All rules and regulations for the Honors Categories apply as noted in the 2021 Contest Rules and Required Composition List.

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

Entry Fee – \$30.00

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 - Magnante, Biviano, Deiro, Von Hallberg, Gart, Frosini, Galla-Rini or Nunzio;
- 5) ADULT JAZZ – (see OPEN JAZZ SOLO above)

2. Memorization for all solos is preferred, but not required.

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 or Jazz Solo.

OPEN DUETS

OPEN DUET - Juniors, Intermediate, Senior, Adult

OPEN MIXED DUET

See Age and Time Limits (maximums)

Entry Fees - \$18.00 per member (\$36.00 per entry)

Eligibility: Competitors must not be over the age limit of their Category, determined as of the closing date of entries (June 1, 2021).

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

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

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

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

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 - \$30.00

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

Awards for all Solo and Duet categories will be on a merit award system
EXCEPT for Honors Categories, Bands and Ensembles – See Honors Rules.
Competitors achieving a score of 95-100 will receive a trophy,
those achieving 90-94 will receive a silver medal, 85-89 will receive a bronze medal.
Awards will be presented at the Virtual Awards Ceremony – Date to be announced soon.
Awards will be sent to teachers for pickup.