

High School Festival Music Competition FAQs 2023

How many contests may I enter?

Contestants may enter a maximum of three individual/solo contests combined in communication, music, and art. Contestants may not compete against themselves in any group competition (e.g., competing in two different small vocal ensembles)

Do I need to be at a certain ability level to compete in the High School Festival?

No. The Festival is open to students on all levels of music development.

Can a high school graduate participate in the Festival?

No, the Festival is only open to high school students currently in 9th-12th grades.

May I enter the same contest in a successive year?

Contestants – both solo and group – may enter and win the same contest in successive years performing different literature.

How do I know what is required for my contest?

Please note there are detailed [contest guidelines](#) specific for each contest area posted on the website.

May I use costumes or props for the Musical Theater competition?

The Musical Theater Vocal Solo contest is primarily a vocal contest with literature from the genre of Musical Theater. Therefore, no costumes or props should be used.

Will entries in the Composition contest be performed as part of the competition?

No. Compositions may be written for any number of instrumentations, including large groups (i.e. symphony orchestra or concert band) and some would be logistically impossible to perform.

Will the winning Composition be performed on one of the showcase recitals?

No. Due to logistical reasons, it is not feasible to include the winning composition on any of the showcase recitals.

Will there be available rehearsal/practice space once I arrive on campus?

Yes, we have practice facilities in two of the residence halls in addition to the Gustafson Fine Arts Center. Group contestants will be assigned times/locations for both rehearsals and pre-contest warm-ups and individuals will have the opportunity to sign up for time on a first-come basis after arriving on campus for the Festival.

How many copies of my music do I need to provide for the judges?

Please remember that you will need **one original** copy of each selection of music you perform for a judge's copy. If you or your accompanist will be using music for any of your performances, those copies must also be original copies.

Are photocopies acceptable for judges' copies?

Photocopies of music may be used only under the following circumstances (obviously handwritten copies fall under the same guidelines).

- The music is in the public domain—it is not copyrighted; the copyright date is before 1928 or the copyright date is between 1928–1963 and has not been renewed.
- The copyrighted music has been ordered but not yet received, and the contestant presents a note from a music store stating that he has **ordered and paid for** the music.
- The contestant presents a letter from the publisher or the copyright holder giving permission to copy the music.
- The contestant or accompanist may reproduce single pages to facilitate page turns. The original published score must also be present on the music stand and/or music rack.
- An emergency copy may be made to replace **previously purchased** copies which for any reason are not available for an imminent performance. The purchased replacement copies must be substituted at the earliest opportunity.
- If you are using digital sheet music or something similar printed from an online download, you will need to provide proof of purchase indicating the number of allowable copies, the source of the download (eg. IMSLP) or a ‘permission to use letter’ with your music.

Are judges’ copies necessary for an unpublished, memorized selection of music?

Yes, a judges’ copy produced using music publishing software such as Finale is required for all unpublished arrangements.

What is the difference between performing ‘One long versus two short pieces’?

Several of the music contests have the option of performing either one long piece (at least as long as the minimum time listed for that contest) or two short pieces (with a combined time of at least as long as the minimum time listed for that contest). The maximum time limit listed for each contest applies to both a performance of one long piece and a combined performance of two short pieces.

What type of music works best for a contest?

The best contest music contains a good balance between technical and lyrical sections. Strive to find selections that demonstrate your complete range of technical ability in addition to demonstrating your interpretive ability.

What are the ‘specified musical periods’?

for the purpose of this contest, they are: Renaissance, Baroque, Classical (including Beethoven), Romantic, Impressionistic and music since 1900.

Am I required to have an accompanist?

If a composition is written to include an accompaniment, it must be performed with one. You may bring your own or inquire ahead to hire a BJU student accompanist. Contact information to obtain a BJU accompanist can be found under the ‘Music’ tab and ‘Accompanists.’

What type of notation is requested for the judges’ copies in the Harp/Classical guitar solo category?

The music you provide for the judges should be in regular staff notation

What is the Side-by-Side Music Experience?

Contestants are strongly encouraged to rehearse and perform in one of the large festival groups and ‘sit side-by-side’ with University students of regular University performing organizations. These will include the

University Wind Band, University Symphony Orchestra, University Singers and University Chorale. Rehearsals are Tuesday and Wednesday evenings after your contests are over for the day with final rehearsals and performances on Thursday. See additional participation details under '[Side-by-Side Music Experience](#)'

How does one get recommended for the Festival Concert Chorus?

School directors/sponsors can select balanced SATB quartets from their group of competing students to participate in the Concert Chorus, directed by Dr. Andrew Huish, which is not open to individual entries, regardless of voice classification. Individual entries, however, are welcome to join the Festival Singers, directed by Dr. Pattye Casarow.

What level of experience does an instrumentalist need to have to participate in one of the Festival Bands or in Festival Orchestra?

- The Festival Wind Band is open to 9th and 12th grade students in brass, woodwind, and percussion. Students will rehearse and perform side by side with members of the BJU Symphonic Wind Band under the direction of Dr. Bruce Cox. Students in 11th and 12th grade usually have three or more years of playing experience on their instrument.
- The Festival Orchestra is open to 9th-12th grade students who play violin, viola, cello or bass. Students will rehearse and perform side by side with members of the BJU Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Michael Moore. Violin I must be able to play with confidence and ease in fifth position, Violin II & Viola in third position, Cello & Bass in fourth position

What events are available in addition to my contest performance?

- Any festival contestant may choose to participate in one of the large Festival Side-by-Side Groups (Band, Choruses or Orchestra)
- Attend a workshop or masterclass presented by one of the University music faculty on Thursday
- Attend University classes or rehearsals of your choice anytime on Thursday
- Attend three concerts on Wednesday and Thursday featuring the winners of each contest area from this year's Festival
- Attend special concerts/productions by University instrumental ensembles, vocal choirs and the BJU Theatre Department
- Attend University Chapel on Tuesday and Wednesday

May I observe any private lessons?

Yes, on Thursday, many University music faculty will participate in 'Open Studios' – an opportunity for you to come observe them teaching a music lesson or possibly sign up for a free lesson and ask any questions you might have.

Will I get to work with any of the BJU Faculty?

Yes, you will have several opportunities.

- Participate in one of the large festival music groups and spend 4-5 hours in rehearsal with a University director.
- Attend a workshop or masterclass on Thursday
- Attend a private music lesson
- Request a meeting with a faculty member

What Special Music Workshops will be offered?

Several workshops open to sponsors and/or contestants will be presented by University music faculty on Thursday. Recent topics or sessions have included:

- Music at BJU – Q & A session with university students and the division chair answering questions about applying to the Division of Music as a music major and applying for music related scholarships at BJU.
- You + Your Instrument: Information that will keep music students and their teachers playing healthy
- Symphony Orchestra Open Rehearsal – observe the BJUSO in a normal rehearsal
- Open Studios – this is an opportunity to visit and observe University private lessons
- Choral Music reading session
- Sacred Piano Arrangement Master Class