

estival 2026 PERFORMANCE EVENT & MUSIC COMPETITION April 11-18

Event Syllabus

Hosted By Long & McQuade Richmond Hill

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WHAT IS FESTIVAL 2026?

Festival 2026 is a competitive performance opportunity for students in celebration of musical growth, achievement, and community across select Long & McQuade locations nationwide. Open to students of all ages and skill levels, the festival provides a unique platform to perform, learn, and be inspired.

What to Expect:

The festival will run from April 11th – April 18th. Each day will focus on one instrument with various sessions organized by age and skill level. Sessions are approximately an hour in length. Each session begins with a masterclass led by a highly-skilled and qualified performer who will then watch each student perform and provide professional and constructive feedback. At the end of each session, students are awarded a placement based on their performance and top performers are awarded prizes.

Highlights:

- **Professional Adjudication:** Students receive written and verbal feedback from expert adjudicators, helping them set goals and grow as musicians.
- Masterclasses: Each session includes a short masterclass, offering students an opportunity to refine skills and learn in a group setting.
- Prizes & Scholarships: Various values of Long & McQuade Gift Cards will be awarded as achievements are recognized and celebrated.

Benefits of Participating:

- Showcase your talent on stage.
- Build artistry, technical skill, and stage presence.
- Learn from experienced professionals in the music industry.
- Connect with fellow performers who share your passion and love for music.

Our Vision:

At Long & McQuade, we believe music education has the power to build confidence, foster creativity, and inspire life-long passion in students. Festival 2026 reflects that mission by encouraging all participants—beginner or advanced—to work towards new milestones and celebrate musical achievements.

Good luck to all participants! We can't wait to celebrate your talent!



Formerly known as Cosmo School of Music, our Richmond Hill location has been a cornerstone of music education in the Greater Toronto Area for decades. In May 2025, we proudly joined the **Long & McQuade** family, seamlessly transitioning our programs, teachers, and camps to fall under the Long & McQuade umbrella.

With over 50 experienced instructors and more than 1,200 students attending weekly lessons, Long & McQuade Richmond Hill remains a vibrant hub for music education, offering instruction in piano, guitar, voice, strings, percussion, and more. Our commitment to personalized, high-quality learning experiences continues to thrive, now supported by the extensive resources and reach of Long & McQuade.

We are proud to host our second annual music festival–Festival 2026–now as Long & McQuade Richmond Hill. With our expanded reach, we are inviting participation from other Long & McQuade locations across the GTA, providing students with even more opportunities to perform, learn, and showcase their skills.

From innovative programs like Music Discovery, Group Piano, Rock Band, and Musical Theatre, to performance opportunities in our 240-seat Music Hall, our focus has always been on inspiring growth through music. Festival 2026 builds on this legacy while connecting even more students, families, and communities through the power of performance.



MASTER CLASSES

Before each session, the adjudicator will offer a brief masterclass, spending approximately 10-15 minutes providing expert guidance on various aspects of musical performance.

Topics may include:

- Technical Mastery: Tips on improving technique for specific instruments or voice types.
- Interpretation: How to bring emotional depth and personality to a musical piece.
- Stage Presence: Advice on how to handle nerves and perform confidently on stage.
- Musical Expression: Exploring how dynamics, phrasing, and articulation can elevate the performance.

These sessions provide:

- Immediate Learning: Participants can apply the tips and techniques from the masterclass to their own performance, even within the same session.
- Broader Perspective: Listening to expert advice tailored to specific instruments or styles offers students a fresh perspective, helping participants think critically about their own musical approach.
- Collaborative Environment: Masterclasses create a supportive space where participants and audience members can learn together, reinforcing a sense of community and shared musical growth.

Who Can Attend?

All participants and audience members are encouraged to attend the masterclass before their session. It's a fantastic way to get in the zone and gain inspiration before stepping on stage.



ADJUDICATION AND GRADING

At **Festival 2026**, the adjudication process is designed to evaluate students based on how well they perform their own chosen pieces, rather than competing directly against other participants. The focus is on celebrating individual progress, performance quality, and musicianship.

How Adjudication Works:

Each performance is assessed using a rubric that grades students in four key categories:

- 1. Pitch Accuracy How precise the participant plays or sings the correct notes.
- 2. **Rhythm Accuracy** How consistent and accurate the participant is with timing and rhythmic values.
- 3. **Interpretation** (Stylistic Accuracy) How well the participant understands and conveys the style, character, and mood of the piece.
- 4. **Performance Skills** (Stage Presence) How the participant presents themselves on stage, including confidence, posture, and engagement with the audience.

Each category is graded out of 25, providing a total score out of 100. A copy of the rubric is available in the appendix.

Feedback and Scoring:

After each performance, the adjudicator provides both written and verbal feedback using the "2 Stars and a Wish" format:

- 2 Stars: Two elements of the performance that were done well.
- 1 Wish: One area for improvement that the participant can focus on in future performances.

Grading System:

At the end of each session, participants will receive their adjudication notes and scores. The top three performers with the highest scores will be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, **as indicated on their certificates.** All other participants will receive their performance feedback and a certificate acknowledging their participation.

This process ensures that every student receives constructive feedback and has the opportunity to grow from their performance, regardless of placement.

Who are the Adjudicators?

The adjudicators for Festival 2026 are professional musicians and specialists in their respective fields, bringing a wealth of experience to the evaluation process. Each adjudicator is carefully selected for their expertise in the categories they will be judging. To ensure complete fairness, none of the adjudicators teach at the participating Long & McQuade locations. This impartiality guarantees that participants are evaluated objectively, with the focus solely on their performance.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

Festival 2026 offers a variety of Long & McQuade Gift Cards to reward excellence, effort, and musical growth. These prizes are designed to encourage participants to strive for their best while providing unique opportunities for continued learning and development.

Prizes:

Top performers in each category will have the chance to win Long & McQuade Gift Cards. To qualify, recipients must achieve a performance score of 90% or higher. Prizes include:

- 3 x \$100 gift cards
- 1x \$200 gift cards
- 1x \$300 gift cards

Notification Process:

Winners will be notified via email with details of their awards shortly after the conclusion of Festival 2026.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

To ensure that Festival 2026 runs smoothly and maintains a fair, professional atmosphere, all participants are expected to follow these rules and guidelines. Please read carefully.

Registration and Deadlines:

- All festival registrations must be submitted online by February 20, 2026.
- The registration fee is \$35 per session. All fees are non-refundable.

Arrival and Attendance:

- Participants must arrive at least 15 minutes before their scheduled performance to check in and prepare.
- Participants must remain for the full duration of their session to receive adjudication and be considered for awards or placement.
- Late arrivals may still perform if time permits, but feedback, ranking, and awards eligibility may not be guaranteed.

Performance Requirements:

- Memorization is mandatory for all Classical and Voice categories.
- Pop/Contemporary Piano and Orchestra/Band categories do not require memorization, though it is encouraged.
- Students cannot enter the same piece into more than one category.
- Repeats are allowed for short pieces (one minute or less). Performers are limited to one repeat per piece. For classical repertoire, observe only Da Capo or Da Capo al fine repeats.
- Absolutely no gum during performances.

Sheet Music:

- Performers must bring original, published sheet music for adjudicators.
- Photocopies are prohibited except as a backup copy for adjudication purposes only. These will be destroyed after use.

Instruments and Equipment:

- Long & McQuade will supply standard equipment including a grand piano, music stands, amplifiers, footstools, and sound systems.
- Instruments must be provided by participants, except in piano and percussion kit categories.
- Any additional instruments or accessories are the responsibility of the participant.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Accompaniment and Backing Tracks

- Accompaniment is required for Classical Voice and Orchestra/Band categories. Participants are responsible for arranging their accompanist.
- Backing tracks are permitted in Pop/Contemporary Voice and Guitar categories. These must be submitted to the festival committee 48 hours before the scheduled session.

Interaction with Adjudicators

- Participants, teachers, and parents must not approach adjudicators during or after performances.
- All questions or concerns should be directed to the festival committee via email.

Judging and Awards

- Prize winners will be notified within 1-2 weeks after the festival concludes.
- Any disputes or concerns must be submitted in writing to the participant's Long & McQuade location.

Dress Code

• Formal dress is not required, but participants are encouraged to wear attire appropriate for a professional performance setting.

Conduct and Fair Play

- Participants, parents, and teachers are expected to maintain a respectful and supportive environment.
- Inappropriate or disruptive behaviour toward adjudicators, staff, or participants may result in disqualification.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Piano Categories

The Piano Category at Festival 2026 welcomes students from preparatory to advanced levels. Participants will demonstrate their technical ability, interpretation, and artistry before professional adjudicators. Each performance will be assessed with a focus on individual progress and musical expression. Students will receive constructive feedback to support their growth and celebrate their achievements. Please see the appendix for suggested repertoire sources.

Thursday April 16, 2026

Time	Category	Code	Ages
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Preparatory Piano (Session 1)	PP1	Open
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Preparatory Piano (Session 2)	PP2	Open

Saturday April 18, 2026

Time	Category	Code	Ages
9:30 am - 10:30 am	RCM Level 1-3	PRCM1	Open
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	RCM Level 4-6	PRCM2	Open
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	RCM Level 4-6	PRCM3	Open
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	RCM Level 7 and up	PRCM4	Open
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Pop/Contemporary Piano (Session 1)	PPC1	8-12
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Pop/Contemporary Piano (Session 2)	PPC2	13+

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Voice Categories

The Voice Category at Festival 2026 welcomes students performing classical or contemporary repertoire. Adjudicators will evaluate vocal technique, stage presence, and emotional connection, with a focus on individual growth over comparison. Each vocalist will receive constructive feedback to support their development and artistry. Please see the appendix for suggested repertoire sources.

Saturday April 11, 2026

Time	Category	Code	Ages
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Pop/Contemporary Voice (Session 1)	PCV1	6-10
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Pop/Contemporary Voice (Session 2)	PCV2	11-13
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Pop/Contemporary Voice (Session 3)	PCV3	14+

Thursday April 16, 2026

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Classical Voice	CV1	Open
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Guitar/Bass Categories

The Guitar Category at Festival 2026 features both classical and contemporary styles. Students will be assessed on technique, interpretation, and expression, with emphasis on individual progress. Each guitarist will receive constructive feedback and guidance to support their growth. Please see the appendix for suggested repertoire sources.

Sunday April 12, 2026

Time	Category	Code	Ages
10:00 am - 11:30 am	Pop/Contemporary Guitar (Session 1)	GPC1	6-10
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Pop/Contemporary Guitar (Session 2)	GPC2	11-13
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Pop/Contemporary Guitar (Session 3)	GPC3	14+
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	RCM Classical Guitar	CG1	Open

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Drum Kit

The Percussion Category at Festival 2026 highlights rhythmic precision and dynamic performance. Students will perform contemporary pieces that demonstrate tempo control, rhythm, and stage presence. Adjudicators will provide feedback focused on growth and artistic development. Please see the appendix for suggested repertoire sources.

Monday April 13, 2026

Time	Category	Code	Ages
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Pop/Contemporary Percussion (Session 1)	DK1	8-13
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Pop/Contemporary Percussion (Session 2)	DK2	14+

Orchestra/Band Categories

The Orchestra/Band Category at Festival 2026 welcomes students on woodwinds, brass, or strings. Performers will be evaluated on technique, interpretation, and presentation, with a focus on individual progress. Adjudicators will provide tailored feedback to support both musicality and technical growth. Please see the appendix for suggested repertoire sources.

Wednesday April 15, 2026

Time	Category	Code	Ages
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Woodwinds	WD1	Open
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Brass	BR1	Open
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Strings	ST1	Open



To participate in Festival 2026, follow these steps to complete your registration:

STEP ONE - REGISTER

Visit https://long-mcquaderichmondhill.opus1.io/w/festival2026 and fill out the online registration form. Select your desired category and pay the \$35 registration fee to secure your spot.

STEP TWO - REPERTOIRE SELECTION

Once registration has been closed, all participants will receive an email requesting confirmation of the repertoire they will be performing. Please ensure that your repertoire selection is finalized and submitted by the specified deadline to allow for smooth scheduling and adjudication preparation. Changes to the repertoire after this deadline will not be accepted

Registration Deadline: February 20th, 2025.

Late Registration: Late registrations will be accepted up to one week after the deadline, provided space is available. A \$10 late fee will be applied.

All registration fees are non-refundable.

For any inquiries regarding the registration process, please contact your lesson centre associate.

REPERTOIRE APPENDIX

PIANO (CLASSICAL)

These books are indicative of the performance level of each category. Students and teachers are encouraged to choose repertoire from these books or use them for reference to ensure the students enter the correct category for their experience level. For additional repertoire suggestions, please see the following lists:

RCM Piano Syllabus 2022

RCM Popular Selections List 2022

All RCM Syllabi

Category	Suggested Books	Codes
Preparatory Piano	Celebration Series®, Sixth Edition: Preparatory A or B Piano Repertoire The ABC of Piano Playing Book 1, 2 or 3 (B. Berlin) Alfred's Premier Piano Course Books - Prep to Book 2 Connections for Piano, Preparatory (Christopher Norton) Piano Adventures (including Lesson and Performance Books) - Preparatory to 3A, My First Piano Adventure Books A, B, or C Suzuki Piano Book	PP1, PP2
Level 1 - 3	Celebration Series®, Sixth Edition: Piano Repertoire 1, 2 or 3 Celebration Series®, Sixth Edition: Piano Etudes 1, 2 or 3 Connections for Piano, 1, 2 or 3 (Christopher Norton) Suzuki Piano Book 1, 2 or 3	PRCM1
Level 4- 6	Celebration Series®, Sixth Edition: Piano Repertoire 4, 5 or 6 Celebration Series®, Sixth Edition: Piano Etudes 4, 5 or 6 Connections for Piano, 4, 5 or 6 (Christopher Norton) Suzuki Piano Book 2, 3, or 4	PRCM2 PRCM 3

Level 7 and up	Celebration Series®, Sixth Edition: Piano Repertoire 7 or 8 Celebration Series®, Sixth Edition: Piano Etudes 7 or 8 Connections for Piano, 7 or 8 (Christopher Norton) Suzuki Piano Book 5 or 6 Celebration Series®, Sixth Edition: Piano Repertoire 9 or 10 Celebration Series®, Sixth Edition: Piano Etudes 9 or 10 Suzuki Piano Book 7	PRCM4
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CLASSICAL VOICE

Category	Suggested Books	Codes
	Voice Series, 2019 Edition: Repertoire Preparatory - Level 10	
	Voice Series, 2019 Edition: Vocalises 5–8	
Classical Voice	Voice Series, 2019 Edition: Vocalises and Recitatives 9-10 [High Voice]	PRCM78
	Voice Series, 2019 Edition: Vocalises and Recitatives 9-10 [Low Voice]	

STRINGS

Category	Suggested Books	Codes
Strings	Violin Series, 2021 Edition: Repertoire Preparatory - Level 8 Suzuki Violin School, International Edition: Book 1 - 8 Violin Series, 2021 Edition: Technique, Etudes, and Musicianship Preparatory - 2 Violin Series, 2021 Edition: Violin Technique, Etudes, and Musicianship 3 - 4 Violin Series, 2021 Edition: Violin Technique, Etudes, and Musicianship 5 - 8 Cello Series, 2013 Edition: Repertoire Preparatory - Level 8 Suzuki Cello School, Revised Edition: Book 1 - 8 Cello Series, 2013 Edition: Cello Etudes: Preparatory - 4	ST1

WOODWINDS

Category	Suggested Books	Codes
Woodwinds	Standard of Excellence Books 1-3 [Any Woodwind Instrument] Overtones: A Comprehensive Flute Series Repertoire Preparatory - Level 8 Suzuki Flute School Book 1 - 8 Overtones: A Comprehensive Flute Series Studies Preparatory - 4 Overtones: A Comprehensive Flute Series Studies 5 - 8 Clarinet Series, 2014 Edition Clarinet: Repertoire Preparatory - Level 8 Clarinet Series, 2014 Edition: Etudes Preparatory - 4 Clarinet Series, 2014 Edition: Etudes 5 - 8 Saxophone Series, 2014 Edition: Repertoire Preparatory - Level 8 Saxophone Series, 2014 Edition: Etudes Preparatory - 4 Saxophone Series, 2014 Edition: Etudes Preparatory - 4	WW1

BRASS

Category	Suggested Books	Codes
Brass	Standard of Excellence Books 1 - 3 [Any Brass Instrument] Trumpet Series, 2013 Edition: Repertoire Preparatory - Level 8 Trumpet Series, 2013 Edition: Etudes Preparatory - 4 Trumpet Series, 2013 Edition: Etudes 5 - 8 Solos Sound Spectacular (A. Ballent) Canadian Brass Book of Beginning Trombone Solos (E. Watts) The Really Easy Trombone Book (A. Gout) The Magic Trombone (N. Hare)	BR1
	A Tune a Day (P. Herfurth) Yamaha Trombone Student (J. O'Reilly & J. Kinyon)	

GUITAR

Category	Suggested Books	Codes
Preparatory Guitar	Alfred's Kid's Guitar Course: Books 1 - 3 Alfred's Basic Guitar Method: Books 1 - 4 A Modern Method for Guitar: Volume 1 (Berklee Press) Hal Leonard Guitar For Kids: Book 1, Book 2 or Songbook Hal Leonard Guitar Method: Books 1 - 3 RCM Classical Guitar Series: Preparatory	GPC1, GPC2, GPC3, CV1
Level 1 - 2	Alfred's Basic Guitar Method: Book 5- 6 A Modern Method For Guitar: Volume 2 and 3 (Berklee Press) Mauro Giuliani's 120 Studies for Right Hand Development RCM Classical Guitar Series: Level 1- 2 Rockschool Guitar Grade 1 - 2	GPC1, GPC2, GPC3, CV1
Level 3 - 4	A Modern Method For Guitar: Jazz Songbook (Berklee Press) RCM Classical Guitar Series: Level 3-4 Rockschool Guitar: Grades 3 - 4	GPC1, GPC2, GPC3, CV1
Level 5 - 6	Jazz Guitar: Single Note Soloing Book 1 (T. Greene) RCM Classical Guitar Series: Level 5- 6 Rockschool Guitar Grades 5 - 6	GPC1, GPC2, GPC3, CV1

Level 7 - 8	RCM Classical Guitar Series Level 7- X	GPC1, GPC2, GPC3, CV1
Level 9 or higher		GPC1, GPC2, GPC3, CV1

DRUMS

Category	Suggested Books	Codes
Drums	Standard of Excellence: Drums & Mallet Percussion (Books 1–3) Alfred's Drum Method (Books 1–2) Stick Control for the Snare Drummer (All Levels) Progressive Steps to Syncopation for the Modern Drummer (All Levels) A Funky Primer for the Rock Drummer (All Levels) Modern School for Snare Drum (Intermediate – Advanced) Portraits in Rhythm: 50 Studies for Snare Drum (Level 5 – 8) Any selection of drum set or percussion pieces accompanied by a backing track (all styles and levels permitted)	DK1, DK2

GRADING SCHEME

90 - 100%: An exceptional performance that is confident and communicative. It demonstrates technical flawlessness, insightful awareness of style and convincing musical interpretation. The performer is ready for Carnegie Hall!

80 – 89%: An engaging performance demonstrating thoughtful and careful preparation. It is technically secure and shows stylistic understanding and musical awareness–quick recovery from any MINOR slips or BRIEF lapses.

70 - 79%: A generally secure performance that demonstrates careful preparation. Reflects some awareness of style and musical understanding-occasional slips and lapses. Technical control and musical details can be improved.

60 - 69%: Demonstrates a basic level of preparation. There are slips or lapses, loss of continuity, unresolved technical issues, and a lack of attention to musical details.

50 - 59%: The performance is a work in progress, with many errors, slips, and stumbles significantly impacting continuity. Some aspects may show basic preparation, but a satisfactory performance requires more consistent fluency and attention to musical elements and markings in the score.

SAMPLE RUBRIC

Category	Explanation
Pitch Accuracy	 No melodic mistakes: award 25 1 or 2 minor melodic mistakes: award 22.5-24.5 2-5 minor melodic mistakes: award 20-22 Occasional melodic mistakes throughout piece or many mistakes in one section: award 17.5-19.5 Several melodic mistakes in each section: award 15-17 Many melodic mistakes throughout that make piece unrecognizable: award <15
Rhythm Accuracy	 No rhythmic mistakes: award 25 1 or 2 minor rhythmic mistakes: award 22.5-24.5 2-5 minor rhythmic mistakes: award 20-22 Occasional rhythmic mistakes throughout piece or many mistakes in one section: award 17.5-19.5 Several rhythmic mistakes in each section: award 15-17 Many rhythmic mistakes throughout that make piece unrecognizable: award <15
Interpretation (including phrasing, voicing, articulation, dynamics, and tempo)	 Excellent stylistic awareness and musical interpretation of piece: award >22 Good stylistic awareness and musical interpretation of piece: award 20-22 Some awareness of musical style of piece; occasional interpretive choices unfitting for piece: award 17.5-19.5 Several interpretive choices unfitting for piece: award 15-17 Lack of musical awareness and understanding; many interpretive choices unfitting for piece: award <15
Performance Skills (including posture, stage presence, start and end of performance, bows)	 Confident performance that demonstrates masterful stage presence and expression throughout piece, including introduction and bows: award >22 Demonstrates engaging stage presence and expression throughout piece: award 20-22 Occasional lapses in stage presence and expression, or occasional lack of ease in body movement and control throughout performance: award 17.5-19.5 Several lapses in stage presence, unexpressive performance, and lack of ease in body movement and control throughout piece: award 15-17 Insufficient stage presence, expression, and body movement and control throughout piece: award <15



VISIT OUR FESTIVAL WEBPAGE

For further information and resources, festival details, and key guidelines, visit our official website.

This page provides the latest updates and registration information to help you make the most of your festival experience.

Stay connected and informed as we celebrate music and community together!

Click Here