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5 October 2026

Vocal & Instrumental Eisteddfod 2027 - Syllabus Changes

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SHOULD BE READ TOGETHER WITH THE 2027 VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL SYLLABUS AND IS INTENDED TO HIGHLIGHT MAJOR, BUT NOT NECESSARILY ALL, CHANGES TO THE 2027 SYLLABUS

TWO-PHASED ENTRY PROCEDURE FOR THE 2027 EISTEDDFOD

Main Entry Submission

Monday 16 November to Friday 20 November 2026
(Office will be open daily 9am to 12 noon; NO LATE entries will be accepted)

Second Entry Amendments & Form One Solo/Duet Entry Submission

Monday 18 January 2027 ONLY
(Office will be open until 3pm; NO LATE submissions will be accepted)

- All entries must be submitted in the week of **Monday 16 November to Friday 20 November 2026**.
- Entry submission for **FORM ONE SOLOS AND DUETS ONLY** may be submitted by **Monday 18 January 2027**. **SUBMIT ON A NEW ENTRY FORM, CLEARLY LABELLED.**
- **Entry Amendment** – a **MAXIMUM** of 1% of submitted entries MAY be amended (including name of performer or class) by **Monday 18 January 2027**. No amendments after this date will be accepted. **SUBMIT ON A NEW ENTRY FORM CLEARLY LABELLED.** Please indicate which original entry is being changed
- **NO LATE ENTRIES/AMENDMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.**
- **ALL payments MUST be made by Monday 18 January** (if you need an invoice please request in advance of this)

NIAA reserves the right to limit the number of performances in the case of capacity being reached

FEES – PAYABLE BY MONDAY 19 JANUARY

- Fees are not refundable in the event of non-attendance.
- **Non-payment of fees will result in ALL entries being removed. No exceptions.**
- Ensembles, Bands and Choirs as well as any other Class at Level B will be charged at **\$25 per entry**

ENTRIES:

- For all Classes there will **ONLY** be a **CLASS NUMBER**. **CHECK YOU HAVE THE CORRECT CLASS NUMBER**
- In the African Section, Junior School students may **ONLY** enter classes specifically for Junior Schools.
- ONLY use **the 2027 EXCEL Entry Form** and a reminder of some of the key points
 - one entry form per school UNLESS different Venues (e.g. one for Harare, one for Marondera performances)
 - highlight performance venue
 - school and TIC details (which must be different) are essential
 - use the different tabs/sheets for solo/Duet and Ensemble/bands/choirs
 - entries in CLASS NUMBER order
 - leave a line between classes
 - ONLY one first name can be used
 - bracket duet/trio names
 - dates of birth for all solo, duet and trio entries
 - group names are the school's name unless there is more than one entry in a class; they can be distinguished by using A and B; 1 and 2; 5th Form and 6th Form for example (keep it simple please)
 - performance times to be included (especially for senior grade western instrumentals) and instruments (for western instrumental section)

DRESS CODE

Girls **must** wear trousers - school uniform or black -for modesty when playing instruments such as cello, drums, large brass.

AFRICAN MUSIC

- **Conductors: No conducting of any kind is allowed EXCEPT for choirs**
- **Mbira Ensembles:** at least two thirds to be on mbira. **All** others must play a traditional African instrument (may include clapping and other body percussion).
- **Marimba Challenge:** A minimum of 3 bands for both Junior and Seniors Schools will be bands performing TRADITIONAL PIECES provided they have achieved an Honours Grade (WITHOUT REARRANGEMENT)
- **African Choirs:** A **MAXIMUM of FOUR** entries per school (including combined school entries) across all classes is allowed.
- **African Gospel Choirs:** Gospel sound = spirituals/blues/soul; NO HYMNS ALLOWED.
- **African SATB Choirs:** ANY genre, including hymns allowed EXCEPT gospel (which MUST be sung in the gospel class)

WESTERN INSTRUMENTAL

- Accompanying with another instrument other than piano is allowed, provided the score indicates this clearly
- Failure to provide a suitable accompaniment in any performance may reflect in the final grade awarded to the candidate
- NIAA reserves the right to adjust the **Grade and/or Class** a piece has been performed in **AFTER** adjudication, should the piece have not been played in the correct Grade/Class and the candidate will be liable for the penalty fee and new class entry fee
- **Drumkit Solo:** ONLY accompanied pieces may be played. Playing with a backing track/accompaniment is compulsory for ALL GRADES
- **Accompanying:** Please include candidate's grade on the entry form
- **Instrumental duets, trios, quartets and ensembles; vocal & instrumental ensembles:** Instrument tuning MUST be done prior to the start of the Class. A MAXIMUM of TWO MINUTES tuning time will be allowed prior to each performance.
- **Pipe and Drum Band** – Western Folk/Scottish: MAXIMUM of TWO entries per school, provided there is a 50% change in performers.
- **Jazz Bands:**
 - Specific time slots for sound check with the tech team will be allocated and communicated to all bands
 - NO JAZZ PERFORMANCES will be held in Marondera

WESTERN VOCAL

- **Western folk/traditional:** Unaccompanied ONLY. Hymns and national anthems are not Permitted.
- **Songs from Stage and Screen:** Songs originally written for and performed in any musical or film; Songs from TV Series are NOT allowed.
- **Religious:** maximum time allowed for Form 5-6 and open is 4 minutes.

WESTERN CHORAL

- **PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE ENTERED THE CORRECT CLASS NUMBERS** - especially Junior Schools as the class number and school grade DO NOT TALLY
- **World Choral Music:**
 - pieces may be taken from any culture, sung in any language, outside of the standard English tradition, but may not include pieces which may be performed in the African Choral
 - the accompaniment played must be suitable to the song-style. Percussion is permitted in this class as indicated in the score. It should not overpower the choral singing. There is no limit to number of percussion players, but they MUST be singers.
 - Harmony is expected within the ability of your choir. The absence of harmony will be reflected in the grade awarded to the choir;
- Class Rewording:

505	Junior Schools Girls
506	Junior Schools Boys
507	Junior Schools Mixed
512	Senior Schools Girls
513	Senior Schools Boys
514	Senior School Mixed

MARONDERA PERFORMANCES:

The following Sections will be offered in Marondera

- Any entry from the African section;
- Any entry from the Western Section;
- For both African and Western Sections, we would like to strongly encourage senior vocalists and instrumentalists (Form 5&6 and possibly Grade 6&7), senior grade instrumentalists and senior school western choirs to perform in Harare for the learning/exposure/education with others of similar standards/grades. As NIAA we don't want to lose the excitement and vibe of the senior choir classes;
- It would be up to schools to decide which venue they would want to perform at, and they can split their performances – two separate entry forms – at their discretion
- No senior schools' bands/orchestras may perform in Marondera

ALL BANDS/ORCHESTRAS:

- Performances at Prince Edward & Gweru - note the following
 - No music stands will be provided
 - Chairs will be provided – please advise the NIAA office at least a week before performance giving Class Number, Performance Date and Time
 - Desks for instruments can be provided – please advise the NIAA office at least a week before performance giving Class Number, Performance Date and Time
 - Anything else must be provided by the performers
 - Band/Orchestra layout must be provided on email to the NIAA office at least 5 days prior to performance date. Please label with Class Number, Performance date and time.
- Performances at Harare International School - note the following
 - Music stands, chairs and desks for instruments will be provided
 - Common percussion equipment for the Bands and Orchestras day will be subject to confirmation and will be communicated to the candidates in advance.
 - Band/Orchestra layout must be provided on email to the NIAA office at least 5 days prior to performance date. Please label with Class Number, Performance date and time.