



AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

Contest Chairman, Mary Tokarski

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AAA FESTIVAL July 14-18, 2010 Contest Rules and Required Composition List

GENERAL RULES

REGISTRATION – \$25 Registration Fee for each contestant includes family registration. Each contestant and each family member will receive a badge which will allow the contestant and their family entrance to competition rooms, exhibits, workshops. One Program Journal will be included.

CLOSING DATE – The official contest closing date for entry forms and full payment is June 15, 2010.

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 an 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.
3. If possible, the Contest Committee will accept late entries, provided they are accompanied by a \$5.00 late fee per entry.

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. Forfeiture of award
C. Loss of points
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 dollars (\$20.00) 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, 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 competition closing date. For Band and Ensemble categories, the contestant's age is determined as of January 1 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.

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, ensembles and combos will receive an award. Honorable mention will be awarded to fourth- and fifth-place solo winners. All awards will be presented during the Festival.

OPEN CATEGORIES – Contestant may choose the music.

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

MUSIC LIST FOR STANDARD CATEGORIES

NOTE: Standard Level Categories allow the student to perform by ability, NOT BY AGE. Performance of Standard selections requires the use of publications as listed. All repeats are optional.

STANDARD SOLOS

Preparatory

Skating.....PH Bk 1.....AL 202
 Batter Up or Kick Off...PH Bk 1.....AL 202
 Bell Song.....PH Recital Bk 1.....AL 243

Level I

Jubilee Waltz.....Aretta 2073
 Charlie The Chimp.....PH Book 1.....AL 202
 Five Fingers Waltz, Sayer.....ED 81

Level II

Turn Around Tune.....PH Bk 2B.....AL 218
 Clock Polka.....Aretta 2071
 The Traveler, Schimmel.....ED 233

Level III

Fast Train.....Aretta 2027
 Walkin' Boogie.....PH Boogie Woogie Bk ..AL 268
 The Waltzing Cuckoo ..PH Bk 3.....AL 206

Level IV

Take It or Leave It, Busatto.....PD 421
 Lucky Polka.....PH Polka Book.....AL 257
 Midnight in Spain.....MO 65A

Level V

PH Polka.....PH Recital Bk 4.....AL 246
 Range Busters.....DE 7027B
 Magic Accordion Waltz.....MO 78A

Level VI

Rockin' Boogie.....PH Boogie Woogie Bk ..AL 268
 Funny Fingers, A. Cere.....ED
 Gypsy Dance.....PH Recital Bk 4.....AL 246

Level VII

El Choclo.....OP 9620
 Mexican Polka.....PH Bk 5.....AL 209
 Study in Hi Fi.....MO 85A

STANDARD POLKA SOLOS

Elementary

I Don't Care Polka.....MOD 3C
 Julida Polka.....PH Prep Bk 2B.....AL 218

Intermediate

Bing Bang Polka, Mosti.....PD 0405
 Lucky Polka.....PH Polka Bk.....AL 257

Advanced

Mexican Polka.....PH Bk 5.....AL 209
 Take It or Leave It Polka, Mosti.....DE 421

STANDARD JAZZ SOLO

Standard Jazz I

Any Selection from PH Jazz Book I.....AL 251

Standard Jazz II

Any Selection from PH Jazz Book 2.....AL 252

Standard Jazz III

Any Selection from PH Jazz Book 3.....AL 253

STANDARD DUET

Standard Duet – Elementary

Junior Polka, Burt.....ED 803 D
 Mozart's Pet Mice, Schimmel.....ED 63 D

Standard – Intermediate

Let's Dance The Polka - PH Book 3.....AL 206
 Two Busy Beavers, Aretta.....AR 5014

Standard Duet – Senior

Funny Fingers, A. Cere.....ED 88
 El Mundo.....OP 7149

STANDARD ENSEMBLES

Standard Ensemble – Elementary

Any Piece – PH Band Book I – B.....AL 229 B
 Any Piece – PH Band Book II – B.....AL 230 B

Standard Ensemble – Intermediate

Jenny Lind Polka – PH Fun Band Book A
 AL 235 A (parts) -- AL 235 S (scores)
 Duffy Polka.....AR 7003

Standard Ensemble – Senior

Cactus Polka, Plumb/Palmer-Hughes
 AL 4 AZ for parts, AL 4 XB/P score
 Circus Suite.....AR 7015

All music may be ordered from Ernest Deffner Publications, P.O. Box 11663, Alexandria, VA 22312 703-941-9300

Website: www.accordions.com/deffnermusic

Rules revised 1/31/10

COMPETITION CATEGORIES AND TIME LIMITS

OPEN CATEGORIES

U.S. Virtuoso Solo	.....see rules
U.S. Piano Accordion Solo (Carrozza Scholarship)	.....see rules
Belfiore Entertainment for Female Accordionists	.....see rules
AAA Entertainment	.....see rules
Electronic Entertainment	.....see rules
Bennett Composition Category	.....see rules

Open Classical Senior Solo (16 & over)	.....8 minutes
Open Classical Intermediate Solo (up to 15)	.....6 minutes
Open Classical Junior Solo (up to 12)	.....5 minutes
Open Classical Juniorette Solo (up to 9)3 minutes

Open Jazz Solo5 minutes
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Open Original Senior Solo (16 & over)8 minutes
Open Original Inter. Solo (up to 15)6 minutes
Open Original Junior Solo (up to 12)	.....5 minutes
Open Original Juniorette Solo (up to 9)	.....3 minutes

Open Ethnic Senior Solo (16 & over)	.....6 minutes
Open Ethnic Inter. Solo (up to 15)	.....5 minutes
Open Ethnic Junior Solo (up to 12)	.....4 minutes
Open Ethnic Juniorette Solo (up to 9)	.....3 minutes

Open Pop Solo Senior Solo (16 & over)	.....6 minutes
Open Pop Inter. Solo (up to 15)	.....5 minutes
Open Pop Junior Solo (up to 12)	.....4 minutes
Open Pop Juniorette Solo (up to 9)	.....3 minutes

Open Senior Classical Duet (13 & over)	.....6 minutes
Open Junior Classical Duet 12	.....4 minutes
Open Senior Ethnic Duet (13 & over)	.....6 minutes
Open Junior Ethnic Duet 12	.....4 minutes

Open Senior Pop Duet (13 & over)	.....6 minutes
Open Junior Pop Duet 12	.....4 minutes
Open Mixed Duet	.....6 minutes

Open Band (pro/am)	.....12 minutes
Open Junior Band (up to 12)	.....6 minutes

Open Ensemble (pro/am)12 minutes
Open Junior Ensemble (up to 12)6 minutes

Festival Band15 minutes
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Evaluation Solo (any age thru Adult)3 minutes
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Adult Ethnic Solo3 minutes
Adult Pop Solo3 minutes

STANDARD CATEGORIESSee Music List for Standard Categories
Standard Solo	
Preparatory thru Adult	.....test pieces

Standard Polka Solo	
Elementary, Intermediate & Advanced	.....test pieces

Standard Jazz Solo	
Test Jazz I, Test Jazz II, Test Jazz III	.....test pieces

Standard Duets	
Elementary, Intermediate & Advanced	.....test pieces

Standard Ensembles	
Elementary, Intermediate & Advanced	.....test pieces

CATEGORIES - Awards, Fees, Music and Performance Requirements

■ STANDARD SOLOS

■ STANDARD POLKA SOLO

■ STANDARD JAZZ SOLO

Entry Fee – \$15.00

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 under any or all of the above categories which he/she is entering.
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 not enter any Open Solo categories with the exception of the Pop Solo category. Only one Standard Solo category may be selected. Anyone may enter Evaluation Solo.

■ STANDARD (TEST) DUET

Entry Fees - \$8.00 per member (\$16.00 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 also enter Open Ethnic Duet, Open Pop Duet or Mixed Duet.

■ OPEN CLASSICAL SOLO

Each Open Classical Solo Category is based upon the contestant's age. See Age and Time Limits on page 2. (Juniorette - up to 9 years of age; Junior - up to 12; Intermediate - up to 15; Senior - age 16 and over). Only one Open Classical Solo category may be selected.

Entry Fee – \$15.00

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 June 15th, of the contest year. 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.
2. Contestant must provide a clean copy of published music for the judge; manuscripts will be accepted only for unpublished music.
3. Music must be performed from memory.
4. Open Classical Solo Contestants may not enter any Standard Solo Category. They may enter any or all Open Solo Categories such as Jazz, Original, Ethnic and Pop. 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.

Age and Time Limits (maximums) - see page 2

PENALTIES: Failure to adhere to the above requirements will result in a penalty.

**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.**

■ US PIANO ACCORDION SOLO

See separate entry form for requirements

Entry Fee – \$50.00

INSTRUMENT REQUIREMENTS: Competitor must perform program with an acoustic accordion as a solo instrument, in conformity with the competition rules.

AGE LIMIT: Maximum 32 years as of December 31, 2010.

CLOSING DATE: Entries must be postmarked no later than June 15, 2010. On-line entries will be accepted until that date.

TIME AND PLACE: Competition will be held July 14-18, 2010 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, 4500 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 as part of the AAA Festival. Draw for Position will take place Wednesday, July 14 at 3:00 p.m.

MUSIC: Printed copies of published material is required. Two copies must be submitted to Contest Chairperson on the first day of the event. Performance must be from memory.

TIME LIMIT: Playing time, excluding brief breaks between pieces, may not exceed 15 minutes, nor be less than 12 minutes.

MUSIC REQUIREMENTS: Competitor's program must consist of three sections as outlined below:

I - SELECT ONE <u>AAA Commissioned Works</u>	II - SELECT ONE <u>Standard Repertoire</u>	III - SELECT ONE OR MORE <u>Own Choice, Entertainment</u>
Pavana and Rondo, Surinach Iridescent Rondo, Cowell Aria, William Grant Still Cooper Square, Reigger Herrick's Road, Fremar	Waltz Allegro, Magnante Pietro's Return, Deiro Jolly Caballero, Frosini	Jazz Latin Musette Polka etc., NO CLASSICAL

PENALTIES: There will be point penalties for any infraction of the rules including time limits.

JUDGING CRITERIA: First place winner must have an averaged score of 95 or above. Entrants will be judged on musicianship, appropriate attire, professional presentation and rapport with the audience. Judges' decision will be final and cannot be challenged. Judges reserve the right to withhold any prize if a suitable contestant is not determined.

WINNERS will be obligated to perform at the Awards Concert at the event, if requested. Other mutually convenient concerts may be arranged -- including the Carrozza Scholarship Event for the following year.

■ U.S. VIRTUOSO SOLO

Entry Fee - \$50.00

MUSIC REQUIREMENTS: Contestants are required to perform an Original Program and a Choice Program.

ORIGINAL PROGRAM: A contestant must perform one complete work composed for the accordion. Minimum playing time – 10 minutes. Maximum playing time – 15 minutes.

CHOICE PROGRAM: Consists of three or more works of different styles and character. Minimum playing time – 20 minutes. Maximum playing time – 30 minutes (excluding breaks between movements and/or other pieces).

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Contestant must be a citizen of the United States or have applied for citizenship.
2. Age limit is up to 32 years of age (as per CIA rules).

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Contestant may use only one composition per composer per round.
2. All music must be performed by memory.
3. Two (2) copies of all music must be submitted to the Contest Chairperson on the first day of the performance.
4. Contestants will draw for playing position.

PENALTIES: Failure to adhere to the above requirements will result in a penalty.

AWARDS: The first-place winner will receive a trophy and a \$500.00 cash award. He/she may be invited to represent the American Accordionists' Association at the Coupe Mondiale for the current year. If the first-place winner elects to compete in the Coupe Mondiale, he/she will receive a stipend towards travel expenses. First, second, third, fourth and fifth place winners will receive trophies.

N.B. - Should the candidate compete in the Coupe Mondiale, the following requirements must be observed:

Three Rounds are required:

ROUND I: The candidate must perform the 2010 Test Round including the following three (3) pieces: 1) Any Baroque work 2) Own Choice Program. The candidate must select a program consisting of two (2) pieces, one piece to be of a slower, lyrical style, and the other piece to be of a technical virtuosic style. At least one (1) of these Own Choice pieces must be an original work for accordion. Examples of the slower, lyrical style: Kalina Krasnaia by Semionov, Romance by Angelis, Vocalise by Rachmaninov, Aria by Bach, etc. Examples of the technical virtuosic style: Caprice by Paganini, a fast Sonata by Scarlatti, Finale of 1st Sonata by Kuszakov, etc. 3) Individual movements from cyclic works are acceptable. Playing time for Round I is maximum 20 minutes. Failure to observe maximum playing time will result in a penalty. **ROUND I** music must be played in one sitting and may be played in any order. Candidates will be judged equally on each of the three parts of Round I.

ROUND II - Complete Original Work. One complete original work for the accordion.

ROUND III - Own Choice Program. Own choice program consisting of three (3) or more pieces of different style and character. Playing time: minimum 20 minutes to maximum 30 minutes. Failure to observe minimum or maximum playing time will result in a mark penalty.

■ ADULT CATEGORIES (Ethnic, Pop)

Entry Fee – \$15.00

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 two Open Adult Categories: 1) **ADULT ETHNIC** – play any polka or ethnic selection;
- 2) **ADULT POP** – play any traditional or current "pop" selection..
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 JAZZ SOLO

Entry Fee - \$15.00

Awards

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

Music and Performance Requirements

1. Contestant may play either an acoustic and/or electronic accordion. Amplification and up to two (2) rhythmic accompanying instruments are permitted additionally, if desired.
2. The music should be Dixieland, New Orleans, Contemporary, Progressive or any other Jazz style.

Time Limit – 5 minutes

Contestants in Open Jazz Solo may not enter Standard Jazz Solo.

■ OPEN ORIGINAL SOLO

■ OPEN ETHNIC SOLO

■ OPEN POP SOLO

Entry Fee - \$15.00

Awards

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

Eligibility

Competitors must not be over the age limit of his/her category on June 15th of the contest year.

Contestants may enter any or all of the above listed Categories.

Music and Performance Requirements

1. Contestant may choose the music he/she will perform, within the following guidelines:
ORIGINAL SOLO – A composition written specifically for the accordion.
ETHNIC SOLO – Any polka or ethnic selection
POP SOLO – Any current or traditional "pop" selection. Creativity, rhythm, style and interpretation are important. This category is not for jazz.
2. Music should be played from memory in all above 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.

Age and Time Limits (maximums) - see page 2

– DUETS –

- OPEN DUET
- ETHNIC DUET – Any polka or ethnic selection
- POP DUET - Any current or traditional “pop” selection. Creativity, rhythm, style and interpretation are important. This category is not for jazz.
- MIXED DUET - Accordion with any other instrument or voice.

Entry Fees - \$8.00 per member (\$16.00 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 on June 15th of the contest year

Music and Performance Requirements

1. Contestants should choose music appropriate to the category entered.
2. Contestant must provide a clean copy of music for the judge; manuscripts will be accepted only for unpublished music. Music or lead sheet is required for Pop or Mixed Duets.
3. Music memorization is optional.
4. Contestants entering Open Duet may also enter Open Ethnic Duet, Open Pop Duet and/or Mixed Duet

Age and Time Limits (maximums) - see page 2

– BANDS & ENSEMBLES –

- OPEN BAND
- OPEN ENSEMBLE

Entry Fees - \$50.00

Awards

First-, second- and third-place winners will receive trophies. Each member of a winning ensemble will receive a trophy. Winning bands 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. Contestants must choose music appropriate to the category entered.
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.

Age and Time Limits (maximums) - see page 2

- FESTIVAL BAND (Professional or Amateur)

Entry Fee - \$50.00

Awards

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

Judging 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 technical proficiency in the art form presented. In a group representation, the ensemble will be judged according to the technique as a unit performance.
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. A minimum of two (2) performers are required to enter this category. There is no maximum limit.
7. Other instruments may be used, however, the accordion performance must dominate.
8. Lead sheet or score not required.

Set-up Time – 6 minutes

Time Limit – 15 minutes (maximum)

– OTHER –

- EVALUATION SOLO

Entry Fee - \$15.00

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

**RULES AND CASH AWARDS FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES,
WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY.**

- US PIANO ACCORDION COMPETITION

Carozza Scholarship

Entry Fee - \$50.00

See rules on official application

- MADDALENA BELFIORE ENTERTAINMENT COMPETITION FOR FEMALE ACCORDIONISTS - TBA

Entry Fee - \$50.00

See rules on official application

- AAA ENTERTAINMENT COMPETITION - TBA

Entry Fee - \$50.00

See rules on official application

- ELECTRONIC ENTERTAINMENT COMPETITION - TBA

Entry Fee - \$50.00

See rules on official application

- ELSIE BENNETT ORIGINAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION

Entry Fee - \$50.00

See rules on official application

For information and application forms for all categories, send your request including “snail mail” address to:

AAA1938@aol.com or by phone: (203) 335-2045 or fax: (203) 335-2048

**Contest Chairman, Mary Tokarski
15 Maplewood Lane • Northford, CT 06472**