



Sponsored by the  
American  
Accordionists'  
Association

# AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

## AAA FESTIVAL July 12-16, 2017

### Contest Rules and Required Composition List



Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village  
201 Village Boulevard • Princeton, NJ 08540

For reservations: call 1-609-452-7900

Reservation Code: American Accordionists' Association

**\$129 per night – Must be reserved at this rate by June 15, 2017 – Free Parking**

*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

#### STANDARD SOLOS

##### Standard Solo Prep

Frogs and Frills .....ED86  
Captain Kangaroo .....MO12B

##### Standard Solo Elementary

Elbow Polka .....OP4272  
Cadets March .....MO5A

##### Standard Solo Intermediate

Twin City Polka ..... MO45A  
Ferryboat Polka .....MO44

##### Standard Solo Advanced

Trickling Keys .....ED471  
Study in Hi Fi .....MO85A

#### STANDARD DUETS

##### Standard Duet Elementary

Western Round-Up .....MO1C-B/P  
Junior Polka .....ED803D

##### Standard Duet Intermediate

Two Busy Beavers .....AR5014  
Campus March .....AR6001/11

##### Standard Duet Advanced

Skaters Waltz .....AR5003  
Gypsy Love Song .....AR6002/2

All music may be ordered from:  
Ernest Deffner Publications  
P.O. Box 11663  
Alexandria, VA 22312 USA  
Phone: 703-941-9300  
Fax: 703-941-9301  
Visit their website:  
[www.ernestdeffner.com](http://www.ernestdeffner.com)  
and select:

**Click here to find sheet music and books for the American Accordionists' Association competition and festival.**

### COMPETITION CATEGORIES AND TIME LIMITS

#### OPEN CATEGORIES

Elsie M. Bennett Original Composition Competition . . . . . see rules page 4

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.

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.

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.

Open Pop Jrette. Solo – up to 9 . . . . . 3 min.  
Open Pop Jr. Solo – up to 12 . . . . . 4 min.

Open Pop Int. Solo – up to 15. . . . . 5 min.  
Open Pop Sr. Solo – 16 & over . . . . . 6 min.

Open Jr. Jazz Solo – up to 15 . . . . . 3 min.  
Open Sr. Jazz Solo – 16 & Over . . . . . 5 min.

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.

Open Mixed Duet . . . . . 6 min.

Open Junior Ensemble – up to 12 . . . . 6 min.  
Open Senior Ensemble – Pro/Am . . . . 10 min.

Open Junior Band – up to 12 . . . . . 8 min.  
Open Senior Band – Pro/Am . . . . . 12 min.

Festival Band – Pro/Am . . . . . 15 min.

Evaluation Solo . . . . . 3 min.

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.

Entertainment AAA . . . . . see page 4

#### STANDARD CATEGORIES

See Standard Music List above

Standard Solo Prep  
Standard Solo Elementary  
Standard Solo Intermediate  
Standard Solo Advanced

Standard Duet Elementary  
Standard Duet Intermediate  
Standard Duet Advanced

**AGAIN THIS YEAR! All our categories will remain the same, and the Presentation of Awards will be on a merit basis. See details on page 3.**

## GENERAL RULES

**REGISTRATION** - \$35 Registration Fee is required for each contestant in the Festival which includes up to five (5) family members who live in the same household. This entitles the family to one journal, and badges for each family member which will allow entrance to competition rooms, exhibits, workshops and Awards Concert.

**CLOSING DATE** – The official contest closing date for entry forms and full payment is June 1, 2017.

### 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 non-refundable. 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. A photocopy of printed music is illegal. Those who submit photocopies of music which is available in published form will be disqualified.

## 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** – 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

**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. 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.

**RESPONSIBILITY** – The American Accordionists' Association is not responsible for any delay, bodily injury, loss or damage to the property of participating contestants or spectators. A signed entry form shall indicate the competitor's agreement to the foregoing.

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 the AWARDS CONCERT during the Festival. Those not picked up at the Awards Concert will be forfeited. We will NOT mail awards.

**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** – Contestant 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.

## CATEGORIES - Awards, Fees, Music and Performance Requirements

Awards for all Solo and Duet categories will reflect the "festival" atmosphere (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 the AWARDS CONCERT during the Festival. Those not picked up at the Awards Concert will be forfeited. We will NOT mail awards.

### STANDARD SOLOS

Entry Fee – \$25.00

#### *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. Music must be performed from memory.
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 - \$15.00 per member (\$30.00 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. Music memorization is optional.
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: - \$25.00 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 anything 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. Music should be played from memory in all 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.
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 - \$25.00

*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. Music should be played from memory in all Solo categories.
3. Music or lead sheet optional for Jazz Solo.

*See Age and Time Limits (maximums)*

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

Entry Fee – \$25.00

#### *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. Music may 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 or Jazz Solo.

### OPEN DUETS

OPEN DUET - Juniorette, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Adult  
OPEN MIXED DUET

*See Age and Time Limits (maximums)*

Entry Fees - \$15.00 per member (\$30.00 per entry)

*Eligibility:* Competitors must not be over the age limit of their Category, determined as of the closing date of entries (June 1, 2017).

#### *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 - \$25.00

### *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

## **THE ELSIE M. BENNETT COMPOSITION COMPETITION FOR ASPIRING COMPOSERS**

*Purpose:* The general purpose of this competition is to add to the solo concert repertoire of the acoustic accordion. There is no directive for the style of the composition. Refer to the guide for composing for the standard piano accordion and links to other helpful websites posted on the AAA website [ameraccord.com](http://ameraccord.com).

*Awards:* There will be first, second and third place awards presented when entries merit them. The AAA reserves the right to grant less or no awards based on the quality of the submissions. A cash award in the amount of \$250 will be presented to the first place winner in the junior division and a cash award in the amount of \$500 will be presented to the first place winner in the open division.

*Judging:* A panel of prominent accordionists and composers will be assembled by the AAA to judge all submissions. The decision of the judges will be final.

### **COMPETITION RULES:**

1. Entry fee of \$35 must accompany each submission.

#### 2. Requirements:

Junior Category – up to the age of 18. The length of the submission must be a minimum of 32 measures and a maximum of 3 minutes in length of performance.

Open Category – University to Adult. The length of the submission must be a minimum of 1 1/2 minutes and a maximum of 4 minutes.

3. All levels must be notated on manuscript paper by the entrant or computer generated by the entrant. Entrant **MUST** submit 2 copies of the manuscript, and 2 copies of a recording of the music (CD or MP3 preferred).

#### *Winning Compositions will receive:*

1. An opportunity to have the music performed at an AAA event. The composer may play it personally, select someone to perform it, or ask the AAA to select a performer.
2. Junior & Open Divisions: The possibility of publication, provided the composition meets the approval of the judges as appropriate publishable material.
3. The winning compositions will be announced in various AAA publications and on the worldwide accordion websites.

#### *Submission Requirements:*

1. Each composer may enter only ONE category. No more than one composition may be submitted by one composer.
2. Score **MUST** be legible...preferably done on a music publishing program such as Finale or Sibelius.
3. Two (2) copies of the score must be sent in hard copy. In addition, two recordings of the submission either on CDs, or electronically via email, must accompany the score.
4. Composer's name must **NOT** appear on the score or any CD that is submitted, only the name of the composition, the age of the composer, and the category entered.
5. Send entry form, entry fee, CD or MP3 and score to: Mary Tokarski, 15 Maplewood Lane • Northford, CT 06472

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: June 1, 2017** – Winners will be notified by e-mail on or about June 21st, 2017. Winners are encouraged to perform their compositions at the AAA Festival in Princeton, NJ, July 12-16, 2017. If the composer is **NOT** an accordionist, arrangements can be made to have the music performed at the festival.

Awards for all Solo and Duet categories will be on a merit award system. 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. All awards will be presented at the AWARDS CONCERT during the Festival. Those not picked up at the Awards Concert will be forfeited. We will **NOT** mail awards.