



# AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

## AAA FESTIVAL July 13-17, 2011

### Contest Rules and Required Composition List

The Sheraton at Charleston Airport • 4770 Goer Drive • Charleston, SC  
 For Reservations: 1-888-747-1900 - mention American Accordionists' Association

Room Rates: Double or Single \$109 (kids are no charge); Triple (3 adults) - \$119; Quad (4 adults) - \$129.

We've pared down the categories this year. There are categories for 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 Ethnic, Pop or Jazz (there are separate categories for these).

#### MUSIC LIST FOR STANDARD CATEGORIES

##### Standard Solo Prep

Melody Time Waltz, Farbo . . . . . MO 5B  
 March of the Boy Scouts, Mosti-Panesi . . . . . MO 12A

##### Standard Solo Elementary

Five Fingers Waltz, Sayer . . . . . ED 81  
 Lazy Daisy, Alessio . . . . . OP 9520

##### Standard Solo Intermediate

Video March, Mosti . . . . . MO 70A  
 Happy Farmer Polka, Farbo . . . . . MO 36C

##### Standard Solo Advanced

Take It or Leave It Polka, Busatto . . . . . PD 421  
 Trickling Keys, DeRossi . . . . . PD 471

##### Standard Duet Elementary

Babeko Polka, N.F. Hawkins . . . . . PD 1207D  
 Asparagus Tips, Tedesco  
 Our First Accordion Duets Book . . . . . OP 7987/1

##### Standard Duet Intermediate

Ghost Town Lament, Aretta  
 Beginning Duets Book 1 . . . . . AR 6001/7  
 First Debut, Aretta Beginning Duets Book 1 . . . . . AR 6001/1

##### Standard Duet Advanced

Hayride Polka, Eriksson . . . . . PD 4019  
 Gypsy Love Song, Herbert/Aretta  
 Beginning Duets Book 2 . . . . . AR 6002/2

All music may be ordered from: Ernest Deffner Publications, P.O. Box 11663, Alexandria, VA 22312 703-941-9300  
 Website: [www.accordions.com/deffnermusic](http://www.accordions.com/deffnermusic)

#### COMPETITION CATEGORIES AND TIME LIMITS

##### OPEN CATEGORIES

U.S. Virtuoso Solo . . . . . see rules  
 AAA Int'l. Piano Accordion Competition  
 (Carrozza Scholarship) . . . . . see rules  
 Maddalena Belfiore Entertainment Competition  
 for Female Accordionists . . . . . see rules  
 AAA International Entertainment  
 Competition . . . . . see rules  
 AAA Electronic Entertainment  
 Competition . . . . . see rules  
 Elsie M. Bennett Original Composition  
 Competition . . . . . see rules

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 Classical Jrette. Solo – up to 9 . . . . . 3 min.  
 Open Classical Jr. Solo – up to 12 . . . . . 5 min.  
 Open Classical Int. Solo – up to 15 . . . . . 6 min.  
 Open Classical Sr. Solo – 16 & over . . . . . 8 min.

Open Original Jrette. Solo – up to 9 . . . . . 3 min.  
 Open Original Jr. Solo – up to 12 . . . . . 5 min.

Open Original Int. Solo – up to 15 . . . . . 6 min.  
 Open Original 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 12 . . . . . 3 min.  
 Open Sr. Jazz Solo – 13 & 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 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.

##### STANDARD CATEGORIES

See Standard Music List

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

Standard Duet Elementary  
 Standard Duet Intermediate  
 Standard Duet Advanced

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## GENERAL RULES

**REGISTRATION** - \$25 Registration Fee is required for each contestant in the Festival. Each contestant will receive a journal and a badge which will allow entrance to competition rooms, exhibits, and workshops, as well as a Ticket for the Friday Concert. A Family Registration of \$25 is available for the immediate family of each contestant (those who live in the same household), which entitles the family to one journal, and badges for each family member which will allow entrance to competition rooms, exhibits and workshops.

**CLOSING DATE** – The official contest closing date for entry forms and full payment is June 10, 2011.

### 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 \$5.00 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.

**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.

## 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 June 10, 2011, the closing date of entries. 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** – 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.

**OPEN SOLO** – Contestant may play anything they wish except Ethnic, Pop or Jazz selections.

**OPEN CLASSICAL SOLO** – Contestant must play something of a "Classical" nature – not necessarily by classical composers.

**OPEN ORIGINAL SOLO** – Contestant must play a composition written specifically for accordion.

**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

## WORKSHOPS • EXHIBITS • CONCERTS • COMPETITIONS for all ages

### *Tentative Schedule*

Wednesday	Registration Press & Squeeze	Saturday	Awards Concert Banquet
Thursday	Luncheon & Concert Cabaret		Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation Festival Orchestra
Friday	Sightseeing/Massed Band Performance, <i>conducted by Frank Busso</i> Gala Concert and Reception	Sunday	<i>conducted by Joan Sommers</i> Breakfast Meeting and Farewell

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

### STANDARD SOLOS

Entry Fee – \$20.00

*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 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. They may NOT, however, enter the Open Solo, Classical Solo or Original Solo categories.

### STANDARD DUET

Entry Fees - \$12.00 per member (\$24.00 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 NOT enter the Open Duet Category.

**OPEN SOLOS** – Open Solo, Open Classical, Open Original, 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 categories.

Entry Fee: - \$20.00 per category

*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 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.  
OPEN CLASSICAL SOLO – Contestant must play something of a "Classical" nature – not necessarily by classical composers.  
OPEN ORIGINAL – Contestant must play a composition written specifically for accordion.  
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 12) and Senior (13 and over)

Entry Fee - \$20.00

*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 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)

Entry Fee – \$20.00

*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 three 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.
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.

### U.S. VIRTUOSO SOLO

Entry Fee - \$60.00

#### *Music and Performance 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 – 7 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) – year of birth, 1979 or later.

#### *Music and 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:

*continued on next page*

*Three Rounds are required:*

**ROUND I:** The candidate must perform the 2011 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 Kusjakov, 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.

### **OPEN DUETS**

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

*See Age and Time Limits (maximums)*

Entry Fees - \$12.00 per member (\$24.00 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, determined as of the closing date of entries (June 10, 2011).

#### *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

*Awards:* First-, second- and third-place winning groups will receive a trophy. Each member of winning ensembles 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. 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)*

### **FESTIVAL BAND (Professional or Amateur)**

Entry Fee - \$60.00

*Awards:* Non-competitive. Each group will receive a Participation Award.

#### *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 - \$20.00

*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

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.

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### **SPECIAL CATEGORIES - PLEASE REQUEST RULES AND ENTRY FORMS:**

- AAA International Piano Accordion Competition (Carrozza Scholarship)
- AAA International Orchestra Competition
- Maddalena Belfiore Entertainment Competition for Female Accordionists
- AAA International Entertainment Competition
- AAA Electronic Entertainment Competition
- Elsie M. Bennett Original Composition Competition