

Speech Arts - Duets and Trios

General Rules

- a) **One selection only is required** which must have been performed at the Local Festival, received a minimum mark of 85 and the recommendation of the local Adjudicator. The Adjudicator will take repertoire choice into consideration.
- b) **Competitors must enter the class corresponding to the age of the oldest member of the duet/trio.**
- c) All content and material should be age-appropriate and suitable for all ages/audiences.
- d) The selection must **be performed from memory, except for Public Speaking** where cue cards are allowed.
- e) **Outlines are required for mime, public speaking and storytelling.**
- f) Full costume is not necessary. A suggestion of a costume (hat, shawl, jacket, vest) is sufficient.
- g) Minimal, hand-held stage props are allowed.
- h) For the purpose of this competition:
 - Adult & Child duets: **Adult** is defined as anyone over the age of 19 speaking alongside a younger child.
- i) All competitors must be an **amateur** which shall be defined as any person whose principle means of livelihood is not obtained from the performance or teaching of music in the particular category in which they are competing, even though, from time to time, they may receive remuneration on an occasional basis (not full-time). Please click here for the full definition of Amateur vs Professional: <https://omfa.ca/glossary>
- j) All criteria listed in the OMFA General Rules (<https://omfa.ca/virtual-festival/rules-regulations>) must be strictly adhered to.

Video Submission Requirements

- j) **Video must be submitted by your Local Festival's entry deadline date for Provincials.**
- k) One original script with scene or excerpt, clearly marked or highlighted, (or printed text citing title, author and source) **must be shown on camera prior to the beginning of the performance.**
- l) **Only YouTube videos will be permitted** (i.e. google drives, vimeo, mp3's, mp4's, dropbox etc. are not permitted).
- m) All videos must have "**YouTube kid**" **settings turned off.** You may choose to have your video "unlisted" but "private" videos are not permitted. Please also ensure that the video is allowed to be embedded in other programs.
- n) The video must clearly show the full bodies of each performer. A stationary camera position must be used throughout.
- o) No mixing or sound enhancement is allowed through any kind of soundboard, including a recording studio or computer. No reverb can be added to the recording. The recording must be honest and acoustic – as if the adjudicators were in the room listening to you perform live.

You must perform live on the video. No audio dubbing over your video is allowed.

p) The video should be in the spirit of a recital or an audition and therefore you should dress appropriately.

q) You are required to introduce yourself and your selection in the video, either verbally or with a title card and must be limited to the following:

- Your Name
- The Level you have entered
- The Name of author, playwright or poet, and name of larger work (if applicable)

r) **Do not announce your teacher/s name, where you are from or at which local festival you performed. Do not use your teacher's YouTube channel to submit your videos.**

Speech Arts Selections and Resources

The RCM Speech Arts Syllabus is a good resource for examples of poetry and prose excerpts for all age levels.

Selections should be age appropriate and suitable for audiences of all ages. Offensive language (profanity) found in piece selections must be replaced with alternate word(s) to ensure a 'clean' version. OMFA reserves the right to reject any selections that have an inappropriate tone, either in style or content. Please contact OMFA if you have any questions.

You may select your selection from one of the following categories:

Poetry– (Lyric, Narrative, Humorous, Canadian, Original, Slam):

- **Lyric Poetry** – a short poem that is contemplative, an expression of the inner thoughts and feelings of the poet. It includes sonnets, odes and elegies. Selections exhibit a graceful musical rhythm and flow. The content is reflective and emotional, typically written in the first person, and the story element is of secondary importance to the emotion/feeling. Not dramatized. No (or limited) movement or gestures so that attention is never drawn away from the language. (Examples include select works of Dickinson, Shelley, Keats, Rossetti, Tagore, etc.)
- **Narrative Poetry**– a poem that tells a story, or recounts an event, through verse. It contains a plot, characters, and a setting. It often contains action and dialogue but is told from the narrator's perspective. Usually written in metered verse but does not need to rhyme. Gestures are allowed for emphasis but it is not dramatized. Any movement should flow naturally from the text and the narrator's interpretation. (Examples include select works of Poe, Longfellow, Tennyson, St. Vincent Millay, etc.)
- **Humorous Poetry**– a light or humorous poem (examples include select works of Roald Dahl, Shel Silverstein, Ogden Nash, etc.)
- **Canadian Poetry** – a published poem written by a Canadian/Indigenous poet. (Examples include select works of Roberts, Service, Carson, Lampman, Atwood, Cohen, Montgomery,

Ondaatje, Thomas, etc.)

- **Original Poetry**– Competitors perform their own original poem from memory. Performance will be assessed on content, delivery, creativity and originality.
- **Slam Poetry** – Original spoken-word poetry that is performance-based, rhythmic, passionate and has a "rise" (climax). Slam poetry makes a clear statement or point on a theme or subject people can relate to. Hip hop music and urban culture are strong influences in this style. Performance will be assessed on content, enthusiasm and style. Props, costumes and music are not allowed. (A recommended resource: Poetry Slam by Gary Glazner).

Prose – An excerpt (in paragraph form) from a published story, novel, or essay (fiction or non-fiction). The passage may be abridged to form a unified whole. Prose is non-metrical writing and thus, stories written in verse are not permitted. Selection should include narration, description and dialogue. It should be spoken in a story-telling style and not performed as a dramatic scene. No acting and limited movement around the stage. Competitors may stand or be seated.

- Fiction Prose
- Non-Fiction Prose
- Humorous Prose
- Canadian Prose

Shakespeare Duologue – choice of a scene or play by William Shakespeare.

Duologue Other Than Shakespeare – a scene depicting characters from a published play or published anthology of monologues. Scene may be abridged so that the duologue includes only the words of two or three characters. Simple portable props and simple costuming are allowed.

Storytelling – competitors may write their own original story, or retell, in their own words, a folk, fairy tale, myth or legend.

Public Speaking – competitors will prepare and present an original organized speech on a topic of their choice. Content must be suitable for all ages/audiences. The speech should have a defined purpose and clear structure. The speech may be delivered to entertain, influence, or inform the audience. Cue cards are permitted, but eye contact should engage the audience.

Mime – Own choice from an original or a published work. Mime is a silent art form that uses body and face as instruments of communication and expression so as to express a mood or present a scenario. Performance may take place in silence, be accompanied by recorded music or live music. Competitors must clearly communicate character, storyline, location and emotion. Economy of movement, eye focus, ability to position objects and maintain consistency of distance are vital. Simple costumes are allowed.

Stand-Up Comedy – Perform a comedy skit or sketch, either published material or original. Simple props and costumes are allowed. Content must be suitable for all ages/audiences.

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PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Competitors are required to **perform one selection only**.

Competitors must enter the class corresponding to the age of the oldest member of the duet/trio.

The maximum performance time for each level are listed below:

Beginner Levels (Ages 6-8): **Five (5) minutes**

Primary Levels (Ages 9-10): **Five (5) minutes**

Elementary Levels (Ages 11-12): **Five (5) minutes**

Junior Levels (Ages 13-14): **Eight (8) minutes**

Intermediate Levels (Ages 15-16): **Ten (10) minutes**

Senior Levels (Ages 17-18): **Ten (10) minutes**

Advanced Levels (Ages 19-28): **Ten (10) minutes**

Amateur Adults (Ages 29 and Above): **Ten (10) minutes**

Adult & Child: **Ten (10) minutes**

There is no minimum performance time.

Accurate performance times must be included on the entry form. Do not guess timings.

If you do not provide all information required (your YouTube video link, the PDF of your music and payment) **by your Festival's Provincial deadline, it will result in disqualification.**

Provincial Finals 2025

Speech Arts - Duets and Trios Syllabus

"To Be Decided" in any field will not be accepted and will result in disqualification.

| Class | Virtual |
|---|----------|
| 53010 - Speech Arts - Duets and Trios - Beginner Level - Ages 6-8 | \$110.00 |
| 53011 - Speech Arts - Duets and Trios - Primary Level - Ages 9-10 | \$110.00 |
| 53012 - Speech Arts - Duets and Trios - Elementary Level - Ages 11-12 | \$110.00 |
| 53013 - Speech Arts - Duets and Trios - Junior Level - Ages 13-14 | \$110.00 |
| 53014 - Speech Arts - Duets and Trios - Intermediate Level - Ages 15-16 | \$110.00 |
| 53015 - Speech Arts - Duets and Trios - Senior Level - Ages 17-18 | \$110.00 |
| 53016 - Speech Arts - Duets and Trios - Advanced Level - Ages 19-28 | \$110.00 |
| 53017 - Speech Arts - Duets and Trios - Adults - Ages 29 and Above | \$110.00 |
| 53018 - Speech Arts - Duets and Trios - Adult and Child | \$110.00 |