

2026 New England Music Festival – Quick Category Guide

Family Registration:

- **Family Registration** – A single fee per family covers program materials and the welcome bag provided at check-in for the weekend.

Accordion Categories

- **Evaluation** – Non-competitive category where contestants may perform any song of their choice. They will receive a verbal critique and a certificate.
- **Pre-Selected Standard & Advanced** – Contestants must perform one memorized selection from the pre-selected music list.
- **NE Cup Classical** – Contestants must perform one memorized classical piece of their choice.
- **Championship** – Contestants must perform two memorized pieces, one of which must be a classical selection.
- **Non-Classical** – Contestants will perform one memorized piece or a medley within their solo category level (Standard, Advanced, NE Cup).
- **Electronic** – Contestants will perform one memorized piece using a digital electronic accordion.
- **Polka** – Contestants must perform one memorized polka selection within their solo category level (Standard, Advanced, NE Cup).

Adult Categories

- **Evaluation** – Non-competitive category where contestants may perform any song of their choice. Participants will receive a verbal critique and a certificate.
- **Accordion Classical** – Contestants must perform one classical piece of their choice. Memorization is optional.
- **Championship** – Contestants must perform two contrasting pieces. Memorization is optional. (*Applicable to Accordion, Guitar, and Piano*)
- **Duet: Instrumental Duets** – Two performers will play instruments together. Memorization is optional.
- **Non-Classical** – Contestants will perform one piece or a medley of their choice. Memorization is optional for the following instruments: Accordion, Drums, Guitar, Piano, Violin, Viola, Mixed Instruments, and Voice.

Brass/Woodwind Categories

- **Evaluation** – Non-competitive category where contestants may perform any song of their choice. Participants will receive a verbal critique and a certificate.
- **Solo** – Contestants will perform a song of their choice. Use of a recording is optional.

Drums Categories

- **Evaluation** – Non-competitive category where contestants may perform any song of their choice. Participants will receive a verbal critique and a certificate.
- **Pre-Selected & NE Cup Snare** – Contestants will perform a snare piece of their choice from the selected list. Memorization is not required.
- **Standard & NE Cup Full Set** – Contestants will perform a full set piece of their choice. Memorization and improvisation are not allowed.
- **Championship** – Contestants must perform two pieces: one snare piece (memorization optional) and one full set piece (recording optional).
- **Freestyle Full Set** – Contestants will perform a piece of their choice with improvisation allowed.
- **Full Set with Recording** – Contestants will perform a piece of their choice accompanied by a recording

Registration \$20.00 – Solos/Evaluations \$30.00 – Championship \$60.00 – Duet/Group \$20.00

Cash Awards: **NE Cup Solo Categories – 1st Place \$50.00 | Championship \$150, \$100, \$50.**

Entertainment – 12 & under \$100, \$75, \$50 | 13-15 \$125, \$75, \$50 | 16 & over \$150, \$100, \$50

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Duets:

Two contestants will perform a piece of their choice. There are two categories:

- Instrumental Duets – Both performers play instruments (memorization optional).
- Duets with Recording – Performance accompanied by a recording.

Guitar Categories

- **Evaluation** – Non-competitive category where contestants may perform any song of their choice. Participants will receive a verbal critique and a certificate.
- **Bass** – Contestants must perform one memorized selection of their choice.
- **Pre-Selected Standard & Advanced** – Contestants must perform one memorized selection from the pre-selected music list.
- **NE Cup Classical** – Contestants must perform one memorized classical selection of their choice.
- **Championship** – Contestants must perform two contrasting memorized pieces. One piece may include a recording.
- **Fingerstyle** – Contestants must perform one selection of their choice.
- **Non-Classical** – Contestants will perform one memorized piece or a medley within their solo category level (Standard, Advanced, NE Cup).
- **Standard & Advanced Guitar with Recording** – Contestants will perform a piece of their choice accompanied by a recording.

Groups

- **Groups** – Non-competitive category for ensembles of **three or more participants** in any of the following areas: Accordion, Percussion, Fretted Strings, or Festival.

Entertainment / Vocal with Instrument

- **Entertainment** – Contestants will perform a memorized program featuring contrasting styles and a minimum of two selections. This category focuses on entertainment and allows the use of recordings and one or more instruments.
- **Vocal with Instrument** – Contestants will perform one memorized selection on their chosen instrument while singing along to the piece

Mixed Instrument:

- **Evaluation** – Non-competitive category where contestants may perform any song of their choice. Participants will receive a verbal critique and a certificate.

Piano Categories

- **Evaluation** – Non-competitive category where contestants may perform any song of their choice. Participants will receive a verbal critique and a certificate.
- **Pre-Selected Standard & Advanced** – Contestants must perform one memorized selection from the pre-selected music list.
- **NE Cup Classical** – Contestants must perform one memorized classical selection of their choice.
- **Championship** – Contestants must perform two contrasting memorized pieces, one of which must be a classical selection.
- **Non-Classical** – Contestants will perform one memorized piece or a medley within their solo category level (Standard, Advanced, NE Cup).
- **Jazz / Rags / Blues** – Contestants must perform one memorized piece from Jazz, Ragtime, or Blues.
- **Movie / TV Theme Song** – Contestants must perform one memorized piece from a movie or TV show.

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Ukulele Categories

- **Evaluation** – Non-competitive category where contestants may perform any song of their choice. Participants will receive a verbal critique and a certificate.
- **Solo** – Contestants will perform a song of their choice. Use of a recording is optional.

Violin / Viola Categories

- **Evaluation** – Non-competitive category where contestants may perform any song of their choice. Participants will receive a verbal critique and a certificate.
- **Championship** – Contestants must perform two contrasting memorized pieces. One piece may include a recording.
- **Classical** – Contestants must perform one memorized classical selection. (Recording optional)
- **Non-Classical** – Contestants must perform one memorized selection of their choice. (Recording optional)

Virtual Categories

- **Evaluation** – Contestants will submit a video of their performance. They will receive a written critique and a certificate via email.
- **Lyric Composition** – Contestants will submit their original lyrics for review and judging.
- **Original Composition** – Contestants will submit a recording of their original composition for evaluation.
- **Virtual Solo** – Contestants will submit a video of a memorized performance in one of the following categories:
 - Accordion Non-Classical
 - Adult Non-Classical (All Instruments)
 - Adult Duets
 - Drums Freestyle
 - Guitar Non-Classical
 - Piano Non-Classical
 - Violin/Viola Non-Classical
 - Mixed Instrument
 - Voice Non-Classical

Voice Categories (Recording Optional)

- **Evaluation** – Non-competitive category where contestants may perform any song of their choice. Participants will receive a verbal critique and a certificate.
- **Classical** – Contestants must sing one memorized classical selection.
- **Non-Classical** – Contestants must sing one memorized selection of their choice.
- **Disney / Broadway** – Contestants must sing one memorized selection from a Disney or Broadway production.
- **Billboard / Contemporary / Jazz** – Contestants must sing one memorized selection from Billboard charts, Contemporary music, or Jazz.

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