

NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES – September 2-6, 2026 – Springfield, MA

A. SINGING AND RECITATION COMPETITIONS - INTRODUCTION

1. **IMPORTANT NOTE -- This document contains 3 sections, and only covers stage competitions: Introduction (p. 1), Entry Information (p. 2) and Competition Particulars (p. 3).**
2. **Please review all sections of this document carefully, especially the Stage Competition Particulars (p. 3), which include critical, specific information on scheduling and entry requirements.** For further information and guidelines on Visual Arts, please consult the Eisteddfod section at the Festival website, www.festivalofwales.org.
3. **Our stage competitions include two in Singing** (Solo Voice/Semi-Professional and Hymn Singing) and two in **Recitation** (Welsh Language and English Language). These are planned for **Saturday, September 5** at the Festival's headquarters hotel, Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel, One Monarch Place, Springfield, MA 01144. Entrants may enter as many of these competitions as they wish.
4. **Winners and selected others from the Singing and Recitation competitions will be asked to perform in the Winners' Concert at 4:00 PM on Saturday, September 5.** This concert is a highlight of the NAFOW weekend.
5. **For Singing competitions:**
 - **A professional accompanist will be available**, if desired. The accompanist will also be available for rehearsals, and upon application you will be contacted to schedule a rehearsal time.
 - **The Solo Voice / Semi-Professional Competition (for the Welsh North America Prize)** is for singers with some professional training but whose income is derived only partially from performing. This signature competition of our Eisteddfod offers high-level adjudication for all competitors, offering first and second prizes of \$500 and \$250, respectively. Further, at their sole discretion, the adjudicators may award an additional scholarship of \$3000 to the first-prize winner for travel to compete in Wales in 2027, if the performance is deemed to be of a suitable standard. **Additionally**, the scholarship winner will have the opportunity to compete at the 2027 National Eisteddfod of Wales (Powys) **or** the 2027 International Eisteddfod (Llangollen).
 - **The winners of the singing competitions (Solo Voice/Semi-Professional and Hymn Singing) will also be invited to perform on Sunday, September 6 as noted in the Stage Competition Particulars (p. 3).**
6. **For Recitation competitions:**
 - **Competitors will recite a predetermined "set piece"** and will be adjudicated on the basis of interpretation, intonation and delivery. Prospective competitors will be furnished with the set piece (via email) on request, or otherwise will receive it upon application. **Additionally, reciting the set piece from memory is required.**
 - **A competitor in Welsh Language Recitation, if not fully conversant in the Welsh language, may declare as a "Learner"** when entering online. Adjudicators will then take this into consideration when evaluating performances.

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B. SINGING AND RECITATION COMPETITIONS - ENTRY INFORMATION

1. Entry requirements:

- There are no **entry fees** for any of these competitions **except** for Solo Voice / Semi-Professional (US\$25).
- The deadline for entering stage competitions (via the online entry form at the Eisteddfod section of the Festival website, www.festivalofwales.org) is **August 29, 2026**.
- For **Singing** competitions, to assist our accompanist and adjudicators in their advance preparation, please scan and upload all pages of your chosen piece(s), where indicated in the online entry form, as a **single PDF document**. (**Note: This step is not necessary for Hymn Singing, if using the WNAA Hymnal.**)
- For **all stage competitors**, you will receive confirmation of your entry after we have received your entry form. Please provide a valid email address for confirmation.

2. Additional information:

- Competition schedules are included (p. 3) but may be changed. Please continue to monitor the website www.nafow.org.
- The Eisteddfod Committee reserves the right to reject any entry at its own discretion.
- Prize amounts are in US dollars.
- In each of these competitions, the adjudicators' decisions are final.
- **Critical, specific information on scheduling and on performance and other entry requirements for each of the Singing and Recitation competitions can be found in the next section, "Competition Particulars" (p. 3).**
- **QUESTIONS?** For more information and queries regarding these competitions, please contact the NAFOW Eisteddfod Committee (Tel: 412-215-9161, Email: eisteddfod@nafow.org).

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COMPETITION PARTICULARS: RECITATION (2 competitions)

NOTE: Please also refer to pp. 1-2 of this document for other important information on (or affecting) Recitation competitions.

Welsh Language Recitation: WNAA Eisteddfod Committee Award
 Winner: \$75. *Second place: \$50. Third place: \$25.*

Saturday, Sept. 5, 12:00 PM

English Language Recitation: St. David's Society of Minnesota Award
 Winner: \$75. *Second place: \$50. Third place: \$25.*

Saturday, Sept. 5, 12:30 PM

Competition	Age	Language	Set pieces for recitation (from memory)
Welsh Language†	Open	Welsh	Ymson Ynghylch Amser by R. Williams Parry
English Language	Open	English	A Blackbird Singing by R.S. Thomas

† - **Note:** For entrants not fully conversant in the Welsh language, you may declare as a “Learner” on the entry form.

COMPETITION PARTICULARS: SINGING (2 competitions)

NOTE: Please also refer to pp. 1-2 of this document for other important information on (or affecting) Singing competitions.

Hymn Singing Competition (Solo): Rachel Christopher Memorial Award**

Saturday, Sept. 5, 1:30 PM

Winner: \$75 and the opportunity to sing in the Sunday Worship Service. *Second place: \$50. Third place: \$25.*

** - *Sponsored by Huw Christopher.*

Solo Voice / Semi-Professional: *The Welsh North America Prize*

Saturday, Sept. 5, 2:30 PM

(Formerly: The David Morris Award. Sponsored in 2026 by Ian K. Samways.)

Winner: \$500 and, if adjudicated to be of a sufficient standard, an additional scholarship of \$3000 for travel to compete at the 2027 National Eisteddfod of Wales (Powys) or the 2027 International Eisteddfod (Llangollen). If the scholarship is awarded and the winner travels to Wales, a report on the experience is required. Winner is also invited to sing at an event on Sunday, Sept. 6 (to be determined).

Runner-up: \$250.

NOTE: The Solo Voice / Semi-Professional Competition is open only to residents of the Americas.

Competition	Age	No. of pieces	Language	Time limit	Comments
Hymn Singing (Solo)	Open	1	Welsh	8 minutes max.; any number of verses	Hymnal or sheet music may be used, accompanied or unaccompanied.
Solo Voice/ Semi-Prof.	Open	2	At least 1 in Welsh**	10 minutes (total) max.	Selections must be memorized.

** - **Solo Voice/Semi-Professional Requirements:** 2 contrasting selections drawn from **art song, oratorio or operatic repertoire**. The 2 selections can be from two of the three categories, or from just one. Unfortunately, we cannot provide recommendations for performance selections but can confirm (on request) whether a selection is suitable for competition. A basic definition of “art song” can be found via: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_song .