



Spring 2026

Performance Exams

VAM Online Performance Exams

Spring 2026 Session

Registrations accepted until **May 1**

Video submissions due **May 15**

Vancouver Academy of Music's Performance Exams are a celebration of the achievement and progress made during the course of the academic year. Students are invited to a performance opportunity that includes guidance from distinguished music educators.

For VAM private students of all levels* ages 5-17

VAM Performance Exams are inclusive of all levels. There are no restrictions on works performed regarding difficulty; students are encouraged to work with their private instructor to determine which repertoire selections are best to help them achieve their own personal goals. Any level may be completed regardless of whether or not the student participated in exams for the preceding levels.

Exams will be evaluated and scored on the basis of the student's performance in relation to the demands of the chosen repertoire and will include written commentary from the examiner.

**For the purpose of determining eligibility for exam participation, a VAM private student is a student who enrolls in a minimum of 16 private lessons per term for the instrument listed in their exam registration.*

Spring 2026 Deadlines

Registration deadline: May 1, 11:59pm

Deadline to submit videos: May 15, 11:59pm

How to Register

Register online at: vam.ca/exams



Scan to Register

How to Submit Your Video

After completing registration and payment, prepare your video ensuring that each repertoire selection is completed in one take and that the student is clearly audible and visible. Videos must be recorded July 2025 or later to be eligible for assessment. Upload your video to a file sharing platform of your choice (e.g., YouTube, Dropbox, or Google Drive) so that the file can be shared by a link, or if there are multiple files, that there is access to the folder by a link that contains all the files.

After submitting registration and payment, the student will be placed into a category based on their age and receive a follow-up form by email. Students will provide the link to their performance using this second form. It is not necessary to send the performance immediately following registration, provided that it is received by the video submission deadline.

Exam Scoring

Distinguished

Student demonstrates an exceptionally high level of musicianship, accuracy, and artistry in addition to well-developed stage deportment.

Excellent

Student is very well prepared and performs chosen repertoire with few technical inaccuracies and a strong level of musicianship.

Satisfactory

Student has adequately prepared the chosen repertoire.

Incomplete

Incomplete or missing submission (*no award issued*).

Scholarships & Awards



Students achieving the highest score of 'Distinguished' will receive a scholarship for VAM tuition applied to the following academic year*. Those who demonstrate an outstanding level of artistic merit in their age and instrument category[†] will be awarded the special prize of a medal:

- **Gold medal:** \$500 scholarship
- **Silver medal:** \$400 scholarship
- **Bronze medal:** \$300 scholarship
- All other students achieving a 'Distinguished' score: \$150 scholarship

**Students graduating high school will be eligible for a cash award in lieu of a VAM scholarship.*

[†]Not all awards may be distributed in every age and instrument category if, in the adjudicator's opinion, such awards are not merited.

Gold Medal Competition



VAM's Gold Medal Competition is a prestigious continuation of the Spring Performance Exams, designed to spotlight and celebrate the achievements of Gold Medal recipients. This event further recognizes their talent by awarding three distinguished Diamond Winners — a total of \$3,000 in scholarships toward their 2026/27 VAM tuition.

Open to the public, this competition showcases the highest level of excellence in student performance. Winners will be selected and announced on the same day of the competition.

- **Senior Category:** \$1250 scholarship
- **Intermediate Category:** \$1000 scholarship
- **Junior Category:** \$750 scholarship

Competition Date: September 27, 2026

- Open to Public
- 3 Diamond Award Winners to be Announced at the Event!
- For Competition Guidelines:



Levels

Junior Performance Exams

Eligibility: students aged 5-8 as of May 1, 2026 enrolled in VAM private lessons (minimum 16 per term) for the instrument on which they perform.

Exam requirement: two contrasting solo works with a combined duration of 10 minutes or less. *Piano accompaniment required where applicable.*

Exam Fee: \$60

Junior Exam Levels:

Age 5	Junior Class 1
Age 6	Junior Class 2
Age 7	Junior Class 3
Age 8	Junior Class 4 and Junior Performer's Certificate (<i>includes recognition trophy</i>)

Intermediate Performance Exams

Eligibility: students aged 9-12 as of May 1, 2026 enrolled in VAM private lessons (minimum 16 per term) for the instrument on which they perform. *Completion of previous levels is not required.*

Exam requirement: three contrasting solo works with a combined duration of 15 minutes or less. *Piano accompaniment required where applicable.*

Exam Fee: \$70

Intermediate Exam Levels:

Age 9	Intermediate Class 1
Age 10	Intermediate Class 2
Age 11	Intermediate Class 3
Age 12	Intermediate Class 4 and Intermediate Performer's Certificate (<i>includes recognition plaque</i>)

Senior Performance Exams

Eligibility: students aged 13-16 as of May 1, 2026 enrolled in VAM private lessons (minimum 16 per term) for the instrument on which they perform. *Completion of previous levels is not required.*

Exam requirement: three contrasting solo works with a combined duration of 25 minutes or less. *Piano accompaniment required where applicable.*

Exam Fee: \$80

Senior Exam Levels:

Age 13	Senior Class 1
Age 14	Senior Class 2
Age 15	Senior Class 3
Age 16	Senior Class 4 and Senior Performer's Certificate (<i>includes framed award</i>)

Advanced Senior Performer's Certificate

Eligibility:

- Age 17 as of May 1, 2026, or in their graduating year of high school, and,
- Registered in at least 16 VAM private lessons in the Spring 2026 semester for the instrument on which they perform.

Exam Fee: \$100

Exam requirement: 25 to 35 minutes of any solo repertoire the student chooses. *Piano accompaniment required where applicable.*

