

BRITISH COLUMBIA PIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Online Performance Assessments

May, June, and July 2020

In this unprecedented time when the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the cancellation of this season's highland games in the Pacific Northwest and with it the loss of solo piping, drumming, and pipe band competitions, the BC Pipers' Association, in partnership with the highland games, is providing players opportunities to receive performance assessments to continue their musical development during the spring and summer.

This initiative involves the following elements:

- Players enter for monthly assessments through the BCPA online entry system
- Players video record their performances for the particular month and upload them to YouTube, and enter their YouTube link into an online form along with their name and music details
- An adjudicator prepares a written assessment of the performance, with guidance on key elements that need development for the player to take their performance to the next level
- Players download their written assessments when available
- The adjudicators who assess the performances for a month provide their general perspectives on the performances in a panel discussion and its video is posted on the BCPA YouTube channel

Fees for these events recognize the financial challenges many people are facing during the pandemic. Surplus funds after expenses will be distributed equally to the BCPA sanctioned highland games, in appreciation of the environment and support they provide year after year for the development of pipers, drummers, and bands.

Individual assessments will not be used for grading/re-grading purposes, the adjudicator assessors will not indicate performance ratings levels, and the assessments are purely for the personal benefit of the individual participants.

Month	Enter By	Submit Videos By	Assessments Provided By
May	May 29	June 5	June 13
June	June 26	July 3	July 11
July	July 24	July 31	August 8

All registrants will be entered for a random draw for some piping and drumming items to be announced soon.

**** Requirements are submit one of each tune and minimum four parts each tune unless stated otherwise ****

**Please examine the List of Assessments table carefully
A white filled box means the assessment is offered in that month
See overleaf for further details**

PIPING				May	June	July	SNARE DRUMMING				May	June	July
Grade	Music	Requirements					Grade	Music	Requirements				
Beginner	Slow Air (on Chanter)	Min 2 parts, repeats to be observed					Beginner	2/4 March (on Practice Pad)	BCPA Massed Band setting				
Beginner	2/4 March (on Chanter)	4 parts of March. Two partied tunes permitted					Beginner	6/8 March (on Practice Pad)	BCPA Massed Band setting				
Beginner	6/8 March (on Chanter)	4 parts of March. Two partied tunes permitted											
5	2/4 March						4	2/4 March	4 parts only				
5	Slow Air	Min 2 parts, repeats to be observed					4	6/8 March	4 parts only				
5	6/8 March												
4	2/4 March						3	2/4 March					
4	Piobaireachd	Ground & next variation (singing)					3	6/8 March					
4	Strathspey & Reel	2 parts each played twice or 4 parts ea											
4	6/8 March												
							2	March, Strathspey & Reel					
3	2/4 March						2	Hornpipe & Jig					
3	Strathspey & Reel												
3	Piobaireachd												
3	Jig						1	March, Strathspey & Reel					
3	6/8 March						1	Hornpipe & Jig					
2	March, Strathspey & Reel						Open	March, Strathspey & Reel					
2	Piobaireachd						Open	Hornpipe & Jig					
2	Hornpipe & Jig												
2	6/8 March												
1	March, Strathspey & Reel												
1	Piobaireachd						Grade	Music	Requirements	May	June	July	
1	Hornpipe & Jig						Beginner	2/4 March (on Practice Pad)	4 pts of BCPA Massed Band setting, 75 bpm metronome accompaniment only				
1	6/8 March						Beginner	6/8 March (on Practice Pad)	4 pts of BCPA Massed Band setting, 80 bpm metronome accompaniment only				
Open	March, Strathspey & Reel						2	2/4 March	4 parts only				
Open	Piobaireachd						2	6/8 March	4 parts only				
Open	Hornpipe & Jig												
							1	March, Strathspey & Reel					
							1	Hornpipe & Jig					
Adult	2/4 March						Open	March, Strathspey & Reel					
Adult	Slow Air	Min 2 parts, repeats to be observed					Open	Hornpipe & Jig					
Adult	6/8 March												
Adult	Piobaireachd	Ground & next variation (singing)											
Adult	Strathspey & Reel *	2 parts each played twice or 4 parts ea											

* Special event for Adult pipers interested in assessing their ability to play at a Grade 4 level

GENERAL INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Players enter for the online assessments they choose in their grades and pay by credit card at www.bcpipers.org. If you do not have a credit card, you may use a Visa® Gift Card purchased at any of the following locations. In Canada: Vancity credit unions, Shoppers Drug Mart, Pharmasave, 7-Eleven, and other retail outlets. In the USA: Wells Fargo, PNC Bank, US Bank, and other retail outlets.

Step 2: Players should print this information document in order to read the information and music requirements on both pages.

Step 3: Players must complete all fields of the player registration online. Your BCPA Membership # is on your membership card. Select assessments, check the required confirmations, and complete payment.

Step 4: Players will then receive a registration confirmation email that includes

(1) a link to enter the particular YouTube links of the player's performances and details of those performances (to be completed once the performances have been posted on YouTube) and

(2) details on how to download their individual assessment sheets (available on the "Assessments Provided By" dates)

Step 5: Players wait for their written assessment sheets to be available and a couple days afterward on the BCPA YouTube channel watch "The Adjudicators' Table", a panel discussion among the adjudicators on their general comments on the month's performances.

FEES

Fees are \$8 CDN per light music assessment and \$10 CDN per piobaireachd assessment. No refunds.

Players who are not current members of the BC Pipers Association (BCPA) or an officially recognized piping/pipe band association affiliated with the BCPA (associations in the Alliance of North American Pipe Band Associations) must pay an additional \$12 CDN per soloist to assessment fee total. Non-BCPA members, please upload a picture or scan of your current membership card, or similar proof, during the online entry process.)

VIDEO CREATION AND SUBMISSION

Each performance must

- be prepared as a separate video
- be completed in one take (no editing or splicing), although multiple attempts can be made
- not include tuning time
- be only the player (i.e. no accompanying recordings or players)
- be on the full instrument (except for Beginner grades which are on Chanter & Practice Pad)
- start with the player stating the date of the recording, their full name, grade, music event, and tune(s) they will perform

Guidance for quality video recording:

- Smartphones and tablets, mounted or held in a stable position, are quite suitable for recording the videos
- Record the video in Portrait mode unless Landscape mode is needed for the performance
- Frame the picture so the player is facing the camera straight on and is showing all of the player's body. Try to have the microphone(s) around head height.
- Ensure adequate lighting so body and hands can be clearly seen
- Turn off automatic gain control on the audio and adjust the recording volume to a high but not distorted level
- Keep at least 10 feet distance from the camera. Marching is not preferred (due to sound level changes in the recording) however tapping your foot is encouraged.
- Perform indoors on a carpet, rug, or blanket on the floor rather than on bare hardwood or tile (to reduce sound reflections). Turn off ceiling and floor fans. If not possible to perform indoors, record in an outdoor setting in reasonably close proximity with no or minimal visual and audible distractions (e.g. wind noise).

The requirements for uploading to YouTube are:

- A Gmail account or a Google account associated with a non-Gmail email is required. If not already done, a channel will need to be created.
- Use a computer browser or the YouTube app to login and upload the video recording(s)
- Set the video to Public (viewable by everyone) or Unlisted (viewable by only those with the link to the video). Do not set to Private (only viewable by the account owner)
- Title must be in the format "BCPA Online Assessments MONTH 2020 - PLAYER FULL NAME - DISCIPLINE - GRADE – MUSIC IDIOM" e.g. "BCPA Online Assessments May 2020 - Joe Smith - Piping - Grade 4 - Strathspey & Reel"
- Description field should include the name(s) of tune(s) e.g. "Dornie Ferry, Rejected Suitor"
- Following upload, listen to the video to ensure it is of acceptable audio quality, and then go to the link in the registration confirmation email to enter the particular YouTube link of the performance and details of that performance

Appropriate highland dress by the player is encouraged but not required. Players may delete their YouTube videos once they receive their written assessments.

PERFORMANCES CONTENT

As the performances are intended for assessment of the player's development over several months, each video should be recorded no earlier than 3 weeks before a month's video submission deadline and not resubmitted for subsequent months (i.e. create fresh performances).

Also, for grades that require more than one tune submission for competitions, players are encouraged to perform a broad range of their repertoire in these performances for online assessments.

WAIVER STATEMENT

(To be agreed to by player, or parent/guardian if under age 18)

I desire to enter the performance assessments identified, and in consideration of your acceptance of this entry, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and relieve any and all claims I may have against the BCPA for injuries which may be suffered by me while participating. I agree to release any photo images & video that may be captured during my participation in the BCPA performance assessments. I have read and understand the information in this information document. I have read and understand the Competitor Code of Conduct on the BCPA website www.bcpipers.org/about/rules

PERFORMING RIGHTS STATEMENT

(To be agreed to by player)

The player referenced on this entry has permission to publicly perform all of the music he/she will perform in BCPA performance assessments and consents to the BCPA recording, storing, reproducing and broadcasting any performances publicly through whatever means it deems appropriate.

QUESTIONS

For video recording and YouTube uploading technical questions, please contact BCPA Communications Chair Garth Newlands at communications@bcpipers.org

For general and entry questions, please contact BCPA Competition Secretary Moira Mack at 604-455-4884 or entries@bcpipers.org