



National Eisteddfod of South Africa®

Prospectus 2024

PART 5

Junior Vocal Music
(Grade 0 - 6)

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Celebrating 27 years of Youth Development in the Arts since 1997





NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF SOUTH AFRICA®

Part 5

Junior Vocal Music

Extract from

PROSPECTUS

2024 - 2025



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Developing Youth in the Arts since 1997

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PART 5

Junior Vocal Music Section

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JUNIOR VOCAL MUSIC

EXPLANATORY NOTES & DEFINITIONS

JUNIOR VOCAL MUSIC SECTION

SUMMARY

This category is for learners from Gr 0 – Gr. 6 and provides for solo singing, as well as singing in small to medium size ensembles with piano accompaniment.

In the early years up to Foundation Phase, a lot of attention is devoted to the acquisition of language skills, as well as on the development of reading and writing skills. All of these skills depend on the ability to perceive differences in sound and form. Therefore these skills are systematically taught without the expectation that it “will happen all by itself”.

Unfortunately, the same does not apply to the development of the singing voice and the development of listening skills. This seems to be greatly neglected or ignored. The cause of this problem appears to be the curriculum itself. A brief investigation of the Curriculum Statements and teaching plans for Gr. 0 – 6 does not illustrate an understanding of the importance of the development of **listening skills**, which from a musical perspective, needs to be actively developed with full consideration of all the element of music (pitch, duration, tone and form). For example, In the Statements for Gr, 2 it refers to “singing in tune” without apparent previous reference to how this concept is to be established. Like the development of any other skill, “singing in tune” should be guided by a **strategy**. Therefore “Singing in tune” needs to be actively developed and provided for in the year plan.

This section for **Junior Vocal Music** is similar to the **Novice and Elementary level** sections for instrumental music. This section provides for Gr. 0 – 6, but also replaces Gr. 0 - 3 in the Classical Music section. Although **singing** is not the same as learning to play a new musical instrument, e.g. the piano, it does involve a lot of new things that the young child has to discover and learn about this *in-house instrument*, the first of which is to **find** the **singing voice**. In this process the **development of listening skills** is of critical importance. One can go as far as to say that during this phase the development of **singing skills equals** the development of **listening skills**.

For this reason the National Eisteddfod of South Africa® has introduced the **Junior Vocal Section** that allows for the development of the young voice. This section does not provide for separate categories of songs. Any song may be used in this category, provided that it considers the range and vocal abilities of the young voice. The use of piano accompaniment (or any appropriate instrument) is recommended. The educational value of acoustical singing on the development of a **musical ear** cannot be underestimated. The piano accompaniment of these songs is usually fairly simple and can provide the necessary support to the young singer to assist them to sing perfectly in tune.

(This approach is contrary to the popular trend to have junior learners, even as early as from Grade 0, to sing popular contemporary songs with backing tracks and microphones. The challenge is that these backing tracks can be fairly complicated without any support to the singer in order to promote good intonation. For this reason backing track facilities **will not** be provided for in this section.)

The currently situation, when it comes to the selection of songs, is that the age of the singer or the range and vocal ability of the young voice does not seem to be considered. For this reason it is recommended that careful attention should be paid to these aspect.

- 1) The average range for learners in Gr. 1 – 2 is a fifth (from Middle-C – G), while from Gr. 3 it can extend to an octave (from Middle-C – C).
- 2) The basic features of songs for this age group include the following:
 - Age appropriate content
 - A reasonable range (as applicable for the young voice)
 - A strong and enjoyable melodic line
 - Mostly stepwise melodic movement
 - Careful use of larger jumps in the melodic line
 - Clear, strong rhythm and meter, avoiding complicated syncopated patterns that are popular in contemporary music.

All of these attributes will contribute towards establishing good intonation (singing in tune).

Kindly note that different codes are used for solo items and ensembles (duo, trio, etc.). Participants should provide their own accompanists where applicable.

The Junior Vocal Music section is divided into the following 2 categories:

Foundation level: Vocal solos & Vocal ensembles for learners from Gr. 0 – 3

Elementary level: Vocal solos & Vocal ensembles for learners from Gr. 4 - 6

Higher skilled juniors from Grade 4 - 6 may also enter any of the categories in the “traditional” Classical music section as well.

Please note: The use of backing tracks is not permitted in this section. Subsequently, NO backing track facilities will be provided for this category

VOCAL SOLO AND ENSEMBLES: RULES AND REGULATIONS

TIME LIMITS & MINIMUM DURATION

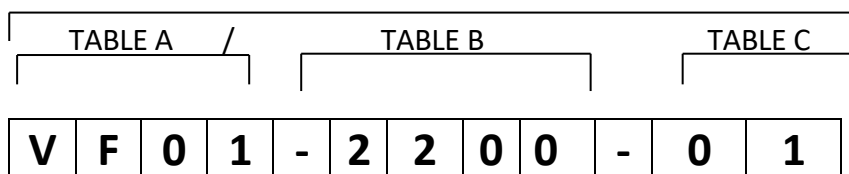
- Time limit: Participants should not exceed the time limit.
- It is recommended that trainers, where possible, *reduce* the *number of verses* to be presented by *junior* performers. This can be done without creating an *unmusically shortened version*.

MUSIC

- There are no specific prescribed pieces in this category. All items are **own choice**.
- The same song may **not** be presented in more than one section.
- Copies of the music must be submitted to the adjudicator prior to the performance.
- Arrangements for accompanists should be made well in advance. Any soloist without access to a piano or accompanist can contact the NEA office for contact details in this regard.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE MUSIC ENTRY FORM?

Selecting an ITEM NUMBER involves three steps:



The entry number comprises of three components provided in Tables A, B and C.

- Select the appropriate code from **TABLE A** – this code is determined by the following:
 - ✓ The code for **VOCAL items** is **VF01** – This section provides solo voice or a vocal ensemble performance for Gr. 0 – 3 learners.
- Decide on the **Item description**, as well as the NUMBER of PERFORMERS that will participate in the specific entry and select the appropriate code from **TABLE B**.
- Select the appropriate **grade** code for the participant from **Table C**. Clearly print the selected code in the last 2 open blocks provided for the item number. **Grade code "09"**= a participant in "**Gr. 9**

Please note: The use of backing tracks is not permitted in this section. Subsequently, NO backing track facilities will be provided for this category

JUNIOR VOCAL MUSIC

SUMMARY OF CODES FOR VOCAL SOLOS & VOCAL ENSEMBLES

TABLE A:	
VOCAL CODES AND REQUIREMENTS	A
<p>IMPORTANT: It is the responsibility of the teacher/parent/participant to select the appropriate codes.</p> <p>All items in this section is to be performed with or without acoustical accompaniment. No electronic equipment (microphones or backing track facilities) will be provided at venues for the Junior Vocal Categories.</p>	
JUNIOR VOCAL CATEGORIES	
VOCAL SOLO / ENSEMBLE - FOUNDATION LEVEL – Gr. 0 - 3	VF01
<p>This category provides for a <i>solo voice</i> or <i>vocal ensemble</i> performance for Gr. 0 – 3 learners. (This section replaces the Gr. 0 – 3 section in the Classical Music category.</p> <p>In the junior section any song may be presented in this category, provided that it considers the range and vocal abilities of the young voice. In this section the use of typical children songs and traditional songs, generally performed with piano accompaniment, is recommended. NO backing track facilities will be provided in this section.</p> <p><i>Kindly note that different codes are used for solo items and ensembles (duo, trio, etc.). Participants should provide their own accompanists. An electronic keyboard, as substitution for a piano, may be used.</i></p>	JUNIOR CLASSICAL VOVAL Gr. 0 - 3
VOCAL SOLO / ENSEMBLE - ELEMENTARY LEVEL – Gr. 4 - 6	VE01
<p>This category provides for a <i>solo voice</i> or <i>vocal ensemble</i> performance for Gr. 4 – 6 learners.</p> <p>In the junior section typical children songs and traditional songs, generally performed with piano accompaniment, is recommended. The educational value of acoustical singing on the development of a <i>musical ear</i> should not be underestimated!) Any song may be used in this category, provided that it considers the range and vocal abilities of the young voice. The use of piano accompaniment (or any appropriate instrument) is recommended. NO backing track facilities will be provided in this section..</p> <p>More experienced Grade 4 - 6 participants may also enter any item in the “traditional” Classical music section.</p> <p><i>Kindly note that different codes are used for solo items and ensembles (duo, trio, etc.). Participants should provide their own accompanists. An electronic keyboard, as substitution for a piano, will be allowed.</i></p>	JUNIOR CLASSICAL VOVAL Gr. 4 - 6

Please note: The use of backing tracks is not permitted in this section. Subsequently, NO backing track facilities will be provided for this category

JUNIOR VOCAL MUSIC - ITEM CODES TABEL B

FOUNDATION LEVEL: VOCAL ITEM CODES

VOCAL SOLO - FOUNDATION LEVEL – Gr. 0 - 3

This category provide for solo singing in the Foundation Phase. The development of listening skills during this phase is of great importance.

This section does not provide separate song categories for Classical, Crossover or Contemporary styles. Any song may be used in this category, provided that it considers the range and vocal abilities of the young voice. The use of piano accompaniment is recommended.

SOLO

2200

VOCAL RECITAL - FOUNDATION LEVEL – Gr. 0 - 3

This category provides the opportunity for presenting a short vocal recital of 3 contrasting songs in the Foundation Phase. No piece that has been entered separately may be performed in this section. Participants must provide the adjudicator with a copy of their music prior to their performance. Developing listening skills during this phase is of great importance. Any songs may be used in this category, provided that it considers the range and vocal abilities of the young voice. The use of piano accompaniment is recommended.

SOLO*

2201

VOCAL ENSEMBLE - FOUNDATION LEVEL – Gr. 0 – 3

This category provides for ensemble singing in the Foundation Phase. Singing in unison on this level will be accepted as it provides a powerful tool to build confidence and to develop listening and singing skills which are of great importance during this phase. Any song may be used in this category, provided that it considers the range and vocal abilities of the young voice. The use of piano accompaniment is recommended.

Vocal ensembles can involve 2 – 20 participants. *Kindly note that different codes are used for solo items and ensembles (duo, trio, etc.).*

Duet

2202

Trio

2203

Quartet

2204

Quintet

2205

SMALL GROUP (5 – 10 members)

2206

MEDIUM SIZED

GROUP (11 -20 members)

2207

ELEMENTARY LEVEL: VOCAL ITEM CODES

VOCAL SOLO – ELEMENTARY LEVEL – Gr. 4 - 6

This category provides for solo singing in the Elementary Phase.

Any song may be used in this category, provided that it considers the range and vocal abilities of the young voice. The use of piano accompaniment is recommended. The development of listening skills remains of great importance - also during this phase.

Solo

2208

VOCAL RECITAL – ELEMENTARY LEVEL – Gr. 4 - 6

This category provides the opportunity for presenting a short vocal recital

Participants should present a programme of 3 contrasting pieces. No piece that has been entered separately may be performed in this section. Participants must provide the adjudicator with a copy of their music prior to their performance.

Any songs may be used in this category, provided that it considers the range and vocal abilities of the young voice. The use of piano accompaniment is recommended.

SOLO

2209

VOCAL ENSEMBLE – ELEMENTARY LEVEL – Gr. 4 - 6

This category provides for ensemble singing in the Elementary Phase. Singing in unison on this level is still accepted, but exploring part singing on this level is recommended. Any song may be used in this category, provided that it considers the range and vocal abilities of the young voice. The use of piano accompaniment is recommended.

Vocal ensembles can involve 2 – 20 participants. *Kindly note that different codes are used for solo items and ensembles (duo, trio, etc.).*

Ensemble : Duo

2210

Ensemble: Trio

2211

Ensemble: Quartet (4)

2212

Ensemble: Quintet (5)

2213

Small group: 6 - 10 participants

2214

Medium sized group: 11 - 20 participants

2215

TIME LIMITS FOR JUNIOR VOCAL MUSIC

TABLE C: GRADES AND TIME LIMITS FOR JUNIOR VOCAL CATEGORIES

00	Grade R	1 minutes
01	Grade 1	2minutes
02	Grade 2	2 minutes
03	Grade 3	2 minutes
04	Grade 4	3 minutes
05	Grade 5	3 minutes
06	Grade 6	3 minutes

Please note: The use of backing tracks is not permitted in this section. Subsequently, NO backing track facilities will be provided for this category