



## Amendments in the 2024 syllabus & Important Reminders

Please take note of the following changes/amendments/additions to next year's syllabus. These are the main changes and may not be exhaustive.

### BACKING TRACKS

- Where these are being used, the candidate should provide their own
- ONLY a blue tooth speaker will be available for playback so please ensure they are on a suitable device
- Candidates should notify check in when they arrive that they require the use of the speaker

### AFRICAN INSTRUMENTAL

- Singing & Movement:
  - o Marimba – as this is an Instrumental section: singing and movement are not encouraged. If used they should play a minor role. Singing must be in an African language.
  - o Mbira: as singing is part of the mbira tradition, singing will be allowed BUT must not overshadow the mbira performance as this is an Instrumental section
- Ensembles (Mbira, Marimba)

- o Entries will all have **MINIMUM** performance times as follows:

Grade 4-7	Min 1 min	Max 3 mins
Form 1-3	Min 1 min	Max 3 mins
Form 4-6	Min 2 mins	Max 4 mins
Adult	Min 2 mins	Max 4 mins

MAXIMUM allowed times remain unchanged

- Pan African Orchestra
  - o Entries will have **MINIMUM** performance times as follows:

Junior School	Min 2 min, max 3 mins
Open (any age)	Min 2 min, max 4 mins

MAXIMUM allowed times remain unchanged

## AFRICAN VOCAL

- No medleys will be allowed for any ensemble
- A **MAXIMUM** of **TWO** vocal solo classes may be entered by any candidate
- Ensembles
  - o Entries will all have **MINIMUM** performance times as follows:

Junior School	Min 1 min	Max 3 mins
Senior School (pupils only)	Min 2 mins	Max 4 mins
Open (any age)	Min 2 mins	Max 4 mins

MAXIMUM allowed times remain unchanged

## AFRICAN CHORAL

- No medleys will be allowed
- African Choral Challenge
  - o open to any choir who received honours in ANY African choral class (Classes 80-91)
  - o ONE entry per school
  - o Choirs who perform in Gweru may request to do a video submission

## ALL WESTERN SECTIONS

- If no printed music score is provided this will incur an automatic DISQUALIFICATION.

## WESTERN INSTRUMENTAL

- Piano Solo – Own Choice
  - o This section will no longer be offered. Candidates should enter their pieces in the appropriate classes
- Drumkit Solo (Classes 181-189)
  - o Playing with a backing track is encouraged for Grades 1-3, and is **compulsory** for Grades 4 and above.
- Jazz Improvisation Solo – Instrumental/Vocal (Classes 271-273)
  - o Preparation time will be FIVE minutes
- Own Composition (CLASS 293-294)
  - o Instruments may include any instrument, including any African instrument
- Jazz Bands
  - o Class 343 – Open (Adults & Senior School Pupils) – a MAXIMUM of 30% of the band may be adult.
  - o ONLY the keyboards provided may be used
- Woodwind and Brass Band (Class 345); Full Orchestra (Class 346)
  - o Amplification of selected instruments may be allowed if called for in the original score subject to requesting permission from the Festival Director prior to the performance date (email [niaa@yoafrica.com](mailto:niaa@yoafrica.com)).
  - o No amplification equipment will be provided by NIAA
- Bagpipes (Classes 310-314)
  - o **MINIMUM** performance times will apply as below

310	BPSJ	Junior School (13 and under)	Min 1 min, max 2 mins
311	BPS1	Form 1-2	Min 3 mins, max 4 mins
312	BPS3	Form 3-4	Min 4 mins, max 5 mins
313	BPS5	Form 5-6	Min 4 mins, max 5 mins
314	BPSO	Adult	Min 5 mins, max 7 mins

  - o No change to MAXIMUM allowed times

## WESTERN CHORAL

- **Accompaniment Exception** – in classes 500 & 501 a single instrument, other than a piano (e.g., guitar) may be used; no backing track.
- Candidates **must** provide a printed copy of the **full music score, in staff notation ONLY** showing all vocal parts (and supporting accompaniment if performed). See Rule 4(a)
- ONLY one piece may be performed; no medleys allowed.
- World Choral Music (Class 520) Pieces may be taken from any culture, sung in any language, **outside of the standard English tradition**, but may not include pieces which may be performed in the African Choral Section
- Vocal Challenge – formal dress is encouraged as opposed to school uniform, but should be suitable and appropriate.
- Western Choral Challenge
  - o open to any choir who received honours in ANY Western choral class (Classes 500-522)
  - o ONE entry per school
  - o Choirs who perform in Gweru may request to do a video submission

## ADMIN REMINDERS:

- All entries must be submitted in soft copy (email to [niaa@yoafrica.com](mailto:niaa@yoafrica.com)) AND a hard copy dropped when payment is made
- ONLY use the **current excel entry form** (as provided with this syllabus) as there is additional information required
- Complete ALL contact information on the excel entry sheet
- Sort entries by class number
- Leave a line between each CLASS not between each entry
- Remember to put in dates of birth, instrument where applicable, time where applicable
- Please only submit ONE excel entry form PER SCHOOL.
  - o Schools should collate before sending through if they have entries from different teachers
  - o Solo/duo/trio is on the FIRST sheet/tab
  - o Ensembles, bands, choirs on the SECOND sheet/tab
  - o Please add additional lines for entries where necessary
- Lower 6 entries – please establish NOW what entries you have as there is little time to sort these out if pupils are missing from the first week of term. There can be NO extension of closing date for entries
- It is the responsibility of the school or teacher to ensure that candidates are entered in the correct class, otherwise they may face disqualification.

- Scheduling requests
  - must be made in writing on email or hardcopy, not WhatsApp, at the time of entry
  - Late requests will not be considered
  - NIAA does their best to accommodate such requests but it is NOT ALWAYS possible
  - Dates which are “set in stone” and no out-of-class performances possible include, but may not be limited to
    - Jazz Bands
    - Orchestras
    - All Choirs
    - Marimba Challenge
    - African Choral Challenge
    - Western Choral Challenge
    - Western Vocal Challenge
    - Scottish Drums and Bagpipes
    - Gweru performances

## **TRAVELING SCHOOLS**

- If you have to travel to either Harare or Gweru for your performances, please advise the following WHEN YOU SUBMIT ENTRIES
  - Earliest time you can be in Harare/Gweru
  - Latest time you need to leave Harare/Gweru
  - Do your performance days need to be limited (please remember the more classes you enter the harder it is to schedule you on fewer days)
- NIAA will try and accommodate your performances accordingly, but this may not always be possible and we may request some leeway
- Please take note of sections above which will be on specific days ONLY

## **ANTICIPATED PERFORMANCE DATES**

**THESE ARE GUIDELINES AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

- African: Friday 23 February – Saturday 9 March
  - African Choirs: Wednesday 6 March – Thursday 7 March
  - Marimba Challenge: Friday 8 March
  - African Choral Challenge: Saturday 9 March
- Gweru: Monday 4 March – Tuesday 5 March
- Western: Friday 1 March – Friday 22 March
  - Western Choirs: Monday 18 March – Thursday 21 March
  - Jazz Bands: Tuesday 12 March
  - Bands & Orchestras: Friday 22 March
  - Vocal Challenge: Wednesday 20 March
  - Western Choral Challenge: Friday 22 March