

Comments about changes to competition divisions

There are some changes to the competition divisions this year that we would like to point out. There are several reasons for the changes:

We want to fit the competition into two days so some streamlining was necessary. We would like people watching the competition to be able to watch the performances without a lot of empty time between the pieces. In other words, the competition should be a pleasant experience for all...competitors, judges, and listeners.

We want to give opportunities to showcase all the hard work and preparation that goes into preparing for a competition. We want to allow for creativity as well as technique.

To that end, we have a new category called VARIETY. In the VAR category, the player has a fixed amount of time they may play. During that time, they may play more than one piece or a medley of pieces. The styles may be old time (see definition in the Rules document), popular, jazz, other styles, except classical (there is a separate category for classical). We do have the requirement that one of the pieces be from the old-time category since we are supporting the Leavenworth theme to some degree. In other words, the player may create their own program of their favorite pieces as long as it fits within the time frame. Once the player begins playing, the timer will be set (the emcee will not talk; the player may announce their pieces ahead of time so it doesn't take up their playing time).

We also have a category called EVALUATION. This category will have the 2 judges plus an additional qualified accordionist reviewing the performance. The purpose is to give the player an opportunity to have their playing evaluated in a constructive and helpful manner without having to compete. This category does not have monetary awards but the award is in the helpful comments obtained.

Professional players are allowed in all Open categories, duets, bands, diatonic, and original composition categories. They may also participate in the EVALUATION category. Pieces in the Leavenworth Open must be from the Old Time category (see Rules for explanation). There is also a Classical Open and Popular Open to allow for other styles.