

The Henwood Family Prize for Emerging Artists | 2025

The purpose for this new annual prize is to celebrate and discover young emerging contemporary songwriters and performers. Winners receive cash prizes and the opportunity to be featured in a live concert on the Victoria Conservatory of Music's Alix Goolden Performance Hall stage, and potentially on other stages, as well as to be professionally recorded. The Henwood Family Prize for Emerging Artists aims to inspire more youth to follow their dreams towards a career in the music industry.

Two \$1000 prizes will be awarded:

- Best Original Contemporary Song
- Best Performance of a Contemporary Song

Who can apply: Open to any youth between 12 and 21 years of age as of the application deadline (i.e. born after May 21, 2003, and before May 21, 2013), residing on Vancouver Island South-Island area (up to and including Nanaimo and the gulf islands). This opportunity is especially valuable for young emerging musicians considering a career in the Commercial Music Industry as Performer/Creator of Contemporary Music (eg. jazz, rock, pop, folk, R&B, funk, electronica, hip-hop, fusion, country, etc.).

All applications are due by 6:00 PM PDT, Wednesday May 21, 2025.

Applications are only accepted via the online links provided below. Incomplete applications will not be considered. There is no application fee for this competition.

An Entrant may submit a maximum of one application for each prize category. Entrants who submit applications under both categories may not use the same song for both categories.

Rules and Application Process

1. Entrants for Category: Best Original Contemporary Song

- Complete the online application form via this link:



The application process requires providing accessible links (GoogleDrive, iCloud, etc) for materials as requested. Note: links provided should not require request for file access.

- Where a song submitted involves one or more co-writers, all co-writers must be listed on the application and only **one** of these is to be indicated as the **designated entrant** for the contest.
- Entrants will require parent/guardian permission (if under age 19) including name and contact information, and permission of each co-writer (as applicable).
- **Materials requested:**
 - Link to a recent photo of the (designated) entrant.
 - Link to lyric sheet (complete lyrics).
 - Link to lyric translation (as applicable, see below for more information)
 - Link to sheet music (as available).
 - Link to a recording in any fashion (live or studio, solo or with band, audio only or audio and video) of the complete song as submitted.
- **Additional rules for this category:**
 - The song submitted must have lyrics and be performable in a live setting.
 - Lyrics may be in any language however a translation must be provided for languages other than English or French.
 - The entrant and all co-writers (as applicable) must be between 12 and 21 years of age as of the application deadline.
 - The entrant and all co-writers (as applicable), must own 100% of the publishing rights to the song submitted.



- Songs will be judged by an independent panel of three professional songwriters, with focus on melody, composition, and lyric content. Consideration will be given towards a song's suitability for live performance.
- The song will not be judged by the quality of the recording submitted.
- **Notification of Winning Entrant:** The winning entrant for this category will be notified by **Friday May 23, 2025**, and invited to attend the formal presentation of the award and \$1,000 prize, as part of the Conservatory's Annual Awards Day Celebration in Alix Goolden Performance Hall on Monday June 9, 2025, starting at 7:30 pm. All entrants will have been notified of the results by June 1, 2025.

2. Entrants for Category: Best Performance of a Contemporary Song



- **This category has two rounds.**
- **Round One:** Complete the online application form using this link:

Application process requires providing accessible links (GoogleDrive, iCloud, etc) for materials as requested. Note: links provided should not require request for file access.

- Where the performance submitted involves multiple performers (band), all performers must be listed on the application and **one** of these indicated as the **designated entrant** for the contest, i.e. the name of a band/ensemble cannot be used as the name of the entrant for the contest.
- **Materials Requested:**
 - Link to a recent photo of the Entrant.
 - Link to a recent live continuous and unedited video recording of the featured song.
 - Along with the video link, the application will also require inputting the song title, composer's name, arranger's name, lyricist (as applicable), and that the recording submitted is properly credited, including list of musicians in the recording, and when the recording was made.
- **Additional rules for this category:**
 - Lyrics may be in any language however a link to a Lyric Translation must be provided for languages other than English or French.
 - The entrant and all performers involved must be between 12 and 21 years of age as of the application deadline.
 - Round 1 applications will be adjudicated by the artistic director and faculty artists of the Victoria Conservatory of Music's Chwyl Family School of Contemporary Music. The top three entries will be shortlisted for Round Two. Performances will be judged on performer musicality, presentation, and delivery. Eg. The performance of all the musicians and their visual presentation will be considered.
- **Notification:** Entrants chosen to advance to Round Two will be notified by **Friday May 23, 2025**.
- **Round Two and Winning Entrant:** Entrants selected for Round Two will be invited to perform live at the Victoria Conservatory of Music in the Alix Goolden Performance Hall on Thursday June 5, 2025 starting at 5:30 pm, in front of a panel jury. The winning entrant will be invited to perform at a live concert in the hall on Tuesday June 10, 2025, starting at 7:30 pm, as part of the School of Contemporary Music Faculty Showcase. During the concert, the Winning Entrant will be awarded a prize certificate and cash award of \$1,000.

Additional opportunities for winners of the Henwood Family Prize for Emerging Artists:

- The winning entrant for Best Original Contemporary Song may be offered the opportunity to have their song performed live as part of the June 10, 2025 School of Contemporary Music Faculty Showcase and/or be professionally recorded at the Conservatory.
- The winning entrant for Best Performance of a Contemporary Song may be offered additional opportunities to be featured as part of concerts/festivals in Victoria, the Westshore area, or beyond the Greater Victoria area.

For more information, please contact Daniel Lapp, Artistic Director, The Chwyl Family School of Contemporary Music, Victoria Conservatory of Music: contemporary@vcm.bc.ca