



## Scholarship Guidelines and Rules Cotati Accordion Student Stage (CASS)

All accordion students are welcome to apply regardless of nationality and residency. We encourage all students to apply after consulting with their teachers. There is no fee associated with the application form.

Students may apply for a scholarship through age 18. If a student should graduate high school in the summer in which they apply, they can still apply for a scholarship during the current festival year if they remain enrolled in accordion lessons.

Participation and submittal requirements are as follows:

1 – Four songs are required for submission. Each song must be a separate video. The student must start each song by introducing the song title prior to each performance. Please name each file video file as follows:

SongTitle\_Video\_LastName\_Year.Mp4 ( or .Mov )

Note:

The student will provide a link to a cloud storage platform such as Google Drive, DropBox, One Drive, etc. The links provided will allow videos to be archived on the Cotati YouTube Channel to facilitate the adjudication process and sharing on Cotatifest website and Facebook. We feel that sharing these videos serve as a useful tool for educational purposes and the promotion of the CASS program.

2 – Completed registration form (as a PDF).

3 – Verification letter from the student's instructor (as a PDF).

4 – Sheet music score for each of the four songs (a separate PDF for each song).

Please name each document as follows:

SongTitle\_Score\_LastName\_Year.PDF

5 – A digital photo of the student with his/her accordion. The purpose of this is to be able to provide information about the CASS program participants in the Cotati Festival Program Guide, Facebook page, or Cotati Festival webpage.

6 – Deadline for submittal is July 1<sup>st</sup> via email.

7 – All materials in the form of PDF's and links shall be sent via email to Dave Noferi, CASS Program Coordinator [CotatiAccordionStudentStage@yahoo.com](mailto:CotatiAccordionStudentStage@yahoo.com)

8 – Attend the festival and, on the Saturday morning of the festival (from 9:30 – noon), perform the selected songs in an informal setting at the Church of the Oaks' Social Hall located at 175 Page Street, Cotati, CA. This venue is located 1 block from the festival site. This is intended to provide an opportunity for student family, friends, and festival attendees to experience the student skills.

Typically, there are 40 – 50 people attending this event, depending on number of students participating. No judges will be present to score performances. Each student will be introduced prior to taking their turn to perform their four songs. If time allows, each student may perform one or two additional favorites.

Note: For participants living in California, a financial travel stipend will be provided to recognize and assist in cost of mileage to-from the festival.

Non-California participants are not required to attend but are encouraged to do so, some financial assistance may be considered upon request.

9 – Join CASS Program Coordinator, Dave Noferi on the Main Festival Stage at approximately 1:30pm for presentation of awards.

Adjudication will be scheduled in the month of July. Three judges will perform their review of video submissions via ZOOM. Their review will result in ranking and feedback for awards. All competing students and their teachers will receive a summary of feedback and scoring via email following the festival. The judges' names and their scores will remain anonymous.

The Cotati Accordion Student Stage is designed to reward students on their own merits. While there is a competition for excellence based on individual scores, each student is evaluated on the number of years studied, the selection of appropriate pieces well-suited to the student's ability and the student's overall mastery of skills.

The Contino scholarship has additional eligibility requirements.

Students are not required to memorize their selections; however, memorization is strongly urged.

Students are not deducted points if they read from a score; however, placement of the sheet music stand should not interfere with the judges' view, which is critical when filming a video.

CASS awards are based on accumulated points as follows:

- The top-scoring student receives a \$500 scholarship.
- Second place receives \$400.
- Third place receives \$300.
- Cash awards under \$300 may be awarded for students placing out of the top three.
- All students are eligible for the San Francisco Accordion Club \$500 scholarship which will be awarded on a discretionary basis by the judges.
- Seniors are eligible for the Dick & Judy Contino \$1500 Scholarship.
- Awards are based on the highest score, age eligibility, and level of difficulty.

Funding for awards and the CASS Program is provided in a variety of ways. For example, a fund-raising concert is held on the Friday of the festival while donations come from private individuals, clubs, and accordion sales.

**Contacts are:**

Dave Noferi, CASS Program Director 1-(310) 210 3297

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