



2025 Folk Presentations Guidelines

The Tables below show the Categories to be adjudicated for 2025 FOLK PRESENTATIONS

23 FOLK PRESENTATION CATEGORIES

MUSIC	DANCE	LITERATURE
<i>Vocal Solo</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Solo</i>
Local Fusion	African Devotional Dance	Poetry/Spoken Word
East Indian Devotional Song	East Indian Devotional Dance	Short Story
Chutney Song	Spiritual Dance	
	Creative Freestyle	<i>Group</i>
<i>Vocal Choral (group)</i>	African Influenced	Village Chat
African Devotional Song	East Indian Influenced Dance	
Spiritual Song	First Peoples Dance	DRAMATIZED LITERATURE
Folk Song Medley		Folk Characters
<i>Instrumental</i>	CHILDREN 13 and UNDER ONLY	
Pan Solo	French Influenced (Group)	
Tassa (<i>Group</i>)		
Drumology (<i>Group</i>)		
CHILDREN 13 and UNDER ONLY		
Calypso Medley (<i>Group</i>)		
Jr. Drumology (<i>Group</i>)		

MUSIC:-The group categories are to have a minimum of six (6) performers in a particular item.

Tassa is the only exception with a minimum of four (4) performers.

- There is no minimum or maximum for accompaniment with the exception of Pan Solo.
- All music categories are a minimum of 3 minutes, maximum of 4 minutes

SOLO categories under Folk Music include:

- **Local Fusion** – Original local compositions that originate from contemporary popular culture, which holds a definite Trinidad and Tobago/Caribbean flavor but may meld other musical influences
- **East Indian Devotional Song** – traditional songs of prayer and devotion derived from the East Indian experience. E.g. Bhagan, Toomree, Ghazals and Caseendas.
- **Chutney Song** – local interpretation `using the Bhojpuri Folk Style to discuss life experiences or express emotions and feelings. It is accompanied by Dholak, Harmonium, Dhantal and Mageera.



The Vocal Chorale (Group) categories include:

- **African-Devotional Song** – traditional songs of prayer and devotion derived from the African experience. These songs, chants and melodies are specific and pays homage to the Heavenly Gods or the Orisha's/Deities, egs – Shango, Oshun/Yemaya, Osain, Yemoja, Obatala, Ogun, Erinle,Rada Movement et al. No reference to Christian deities are permitted in this category.
- **Spiritual Song** –Traditional songs of prayer and devotion derived from the Christian experience. Inclusive of Liturgical, Spiritual Shouter Baptist, doptions, hymns, gospel, Negro Spirituals, Praise. Etc.
- **Folk Song Medley** - Any combination of at least **three (3)** songs (of the three songs used, each must have at least eight consecutive bars of music) from Folk Songs with a traditional/authentic Folk Melody.

CHILDREN 13 and UNDER

- **Calypso Medley** - Any combination of at least **three (3)** songs (of the three songs used, each must have at least eight consecutive bars of music) from Calypsos from 1962 to present.

Instrumental Categories: Tassa and Drumology. (4 minutes) **There is no limit on accompaniment. No maximum number of performers.**

- **Tassa** – Utilizing bass, cutter, fuller and ghige to play variuous hands of rhythms for such occasions as Hosay, Weddings, Ramleela, etc. Must have a minimum of four (4) performers.
- **Drumology** – Afro Caribbean in nature, using traditional African drums with a minimum of six (6) performers. Any one or combination of these traditional rhythms must be played during the piece (beginning, middle or end), the rest of the arrangement will reflect the creativity of the tutor.
Grand Bele, Temne, Igbo, Calypso, Avaloo, Naningo, Congo, Bongo, Banda, Winti, Shovealong, Tamboo Bamboo, Koromanti, Manding, Kalenda, Congo Bele.
- **Pan Solo** – Playing a Trinidad and Tobago or Caribbean Melody. Competitors are allowed live accompaniment only **(2 persons maximum)**.

CHILDREN 13 and UNDER

- **Jr Drumology** – Same as Drumology.

DANCE -: All dances must have a minimum of 6 performers. There is no minimum or maximum for accompaniment. Dances are a minimum of 3 minutes, maximum of 4 minutes. **No maximum number of performers.**

- **African Devotional Dance:** Dances devoted to any African religious occasion or deity. No reference to Christian deities are permitted in this category.
- **East Indian Devotional Dance:** Dances devoted to any East Indian religious occasion or deity. Groups are expected to use traditional music as accompaniment.
- **Spiritual Dance** - Dances based on Gospels, Negro Spirituals, and other spiritual sounds that influence Caribbean culture. Includes Liturgical, Evangelical and Spiritual Baptist



- **Creative Freestyle Dance** - exploring themes and ideas arising from the social and cultural context of Trinidad and Tobago. Foreign forms used must not exceed local forms. There must not be less than 50% local music and forms utilized.
- **African Influenced Dance**—Influenced and indigenous dances which originated through colonization and were traditionally practiced in Trinidad and Tobago.
- **East Indian Influenced Dance** – Influenced and indigenous dances which originated through colonization and were traditionally practiced in Trinidad and Tobago.
- **First People's Dance** – Influenced by Indigenous cultures egs. **Waraowitu, Chagunes, Auaca, Shebaio, Nepuyo, Carinepagoto, Yao and Kalina**. Traditional First People's dances such as the *Blow Torch, Maquarris (dance of whips), Owiarris (dance of rods), Warraus (dance of shields)* also may include the *Seboucan* dance or any dance influenced by Indigenous Peoples culture, history and tradition.

CHILDREN 13 and UNDER

- **French Influenced Dance** – Traditional French Influenced and indigenous dances which originated during colonization and were traditionally practiced in Trinidad and Tobago.

Dramatized Literature:- This will feature short plays or playlets, for the **duration of eight (8) minutes minimum to ten (10) minutes maximum** each playlet should consist of **a minimum of six (6) in the production** based on the following categories: **(There are no maximum number of performers)**

- **Folk Characters Playlet** – based on the stories, characters and distinguishing traits and features of the folk characters of Trinidad and Tobago e.g. Douen, Papa Bois, La Diablesse, Soucouyant etc.

Literature: - This will feature short story, poetry and village chat.

- **Poetry/Spoken Word** – Original Poem/Spoken Word performance based on our Folk and Oral Traditions. Poems may be any combination of lyrical, narrative, descriptive and dramatic. This is a solo category with a presentation minimum of three (3) minutes and a maximum of four (4) minutes.
- **Short Story** – Original story based on our Folk and Oral Traditions. This is a solo category with a presentation minimum of six (6) minutes and a maximum of eight (8) minutes.
- **Village Chat**– Five (5) persons discuss important social issues. The objective of the chat is to deepen the understanding and knowledge of the topic and show its relevance to the community. This is a group category with a presentation minimum of 8 mins and a maximum of 10 mins. Groups must have one person age 19 or under, one person 20-35, one person 36-50 and one person 51 or over.



OVERALL PENALTIES – Applicable to MUSIC, DANCE, DRAMATIZED LITERATURE and LITERATURE

- Time: 1 average point will be deducted for every 20 seconds or part thereof over or under the stipulated time
- Going over or under the stipulated number of performers will lead to a 5 point deduction for each person under or over the limit.
- **Individual Registration:** Please note that if an individual is performing with any group in any capacity within any of the PMBVTC Competitions they will not be able to register and compete as an Individual. They must instead compete with their group. Otherwise the individual will be disqualified.
- **Children 13 and Under:** Please note that children participating in the 13 and Under categories can compete with their group in other categories. The exception is Drumology. Under 13 players may not play in a senior drumology team or vice versa.
- **There is no maximum number of performers for groups participating in Folk Presentation.**

Important links for more information:

Visit the Ministry of Sport and Community Development's Website, Facebook and Instagram for more details.

Link to download all rules and regulations, entry forms and guidelines for the 2025 competition:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15XcNZ0wTO58rYT_EGNXxKMN2ZCwVcTHK?usp=drive_link

or [Click here for Docs](#)

If the link is not clicking please copy and paste into your browser