

WELCOME TO THE MID SOMERSET FESTIVAL

10 – 18 March 2026

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Tuesday 10 March	Speech & Drama Classes
Wednesday 11 March	Speech & Drama Classes
Thursday 12 March	Speech & Drama classes
Friday 13 March	Speech & Drama Concert & Special Awards Musical Theatre
Friday 13 March	Schools Choral Day (Widcombe Baptist Chapel)
Saturday 14 March	Creative Writing Day (Citadel)
Saturday 14 March	Adult Choral Day (St Swithin's Church, The Paragon)
Monday 16 March	Vocal Classes (Citadel), Harps (Steinway Music School)
Tuesday 17 March	Vocal Classes (Citadel)
Wednesday 18 March	Instrumental – Duo/Trio, Ensemble & Bands (Citadel) Keyboard (Guildhall)

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2026

Members of the public are welcome to attend all competitions and concerts:

Session tickets (morning or afternoon) – adults, access all venues	£4.00
Session tickets (evening only) – adults, access all venues	£3.00
Day ticket (three sessions) – adults, access all venues	£9.00
Day ticket (two sessions) – adults, access all venues	£6.00
Day ticket (school age)	FREE
Season ticket – adult (all venues for the Festival period) Weekly ticket (EITHER all Music events OR S&D/Musical Theatre/Creative Writing events)	£15.00
Speech & Drama Awards Evening – Friday March 13th	FREE

The Festival Office at Bath Citadel will be open from Tuesday 10th March

Principal Sponsor – ROPER FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION 3-4

SAFEGUARDING POLICY 5-6

PRIVACY POLICY 7

GENERAL RULES 8-10

FESTIVAL BURSARY SCHEME 11

CREATIVE WRITING

Junior/ Intermediate 12-13

Senior 13-14

Rules 14

SPEECH AND DRAMA CLASSES

Acting 21-22

Bible classes 18

Group classes 20-21

Mime 20-21

Primary section 15-18

Prose classes 19

Public Speaking 23

Storytelling 19

TV Newsreading 23

Verse Speaking 17-18

MUSICAL THEATRE 26-27

MUSIC CLASSES

Vocal Classes 28-29

IN1-5 30

Lower/upper strings, classical guitar,
woodwind & brass

IN6-9 – Harps 32

IN10-13 32

Lower/upper strings, harps,
classical guitar, woodwind & brass

Duo/trio Ensemble 33

Piano Solo 34-35

Piano Duets/Trio 36

Schools Choral Day 37

Adult Choral Day 38



GENERAL INFORMATION

CONTACT US

General Secretary

Evelyn Taylor
4 Daffords Buildings,
BATH BA1 6SG
Tel: 07824 781348
chair@midsomersetfestival.org

Music Chairman

Janet Read
161 Midford Road,
Bath BA2 5SA
Tel: 07890 995356
music.chair@midsomersetfestival.org

Speech & Drama Chairman

Barbara Ingledew
Glenavon, London Road,
BOX SN13 8NA
Tel 01225 744726
drama.chair@midsomersetfestival.org

Stewards

Helen Lossi
Holly House, Greyfield Road,
HIGH LITTLETON BS18 5YF
Tel 01761 568125
stewards@midsomersetfestival.org

Please note new website address www.midsomersetfestival.org

All entries, and correspondence relating to competitors, must be addressed to the relevant Entry Secretary - see below

CREATIVE WRITING | SPEECH & DRAMA | MUSICAL THEATRE ENTRY SECRETARIES

Creative Writing

Jane Riekemann
20 Penn Lea Road
BATH BA1 3RA
Tel 01225 444805
jriekemann@gmail.com

Musical Theatre

Lynne Barnes
4 Brookside, Winford
BRISTOL BS40 8AB
Tel: 07393 982955
lynne@thecomunicators.co

Speech & Drama

Jane Dickson
50 High Street, Rode
FROME BA11 6PB
Tel 07557 760988
janedickson@gmail.com

MUSIC ENTRY SECRETARIES

Vocal

Janet Read
161 Midford Road,
BATH BA2 5SA
Tel: 07890 995356
music.chair@midsomersetfestival.org

Instrumental

Yvonne Dorsey
48 Allington Way
CHIPPENHAM SN14 0JU
Tel 07557 145667
instrumental@midsomersetfestival.org

Keyboard

Kirsty McLean
34 Ulysses Road
SWINDON SN25 2JR
Tel: 07876 417184
keyboard@midsomersetfestival.org

Schools Choral

Judy Hellyer
1 The Old Playground,
Alexandra Place, BATH BA2 5EU
Tel 07818 435273
s.choral@midsomersetfestival.org

Adult Choral

Janet Read
161 Midford Road,
BATH BA2 5SA
Tel: 07890 995356
music.chair@midsomersetfestival.org

TROPHIES

Music

Helen Roper
The Coach House,
Midford, BATH BA2 7BX
Tel: 01225 835121
trophies@midsomersetfestival.org

Speech & Drama

Shirley Smith
6, Napier Rd
Upper Weston. BATH BA1 4LN
Tel 07729 412265

Creative Writing

Nicki Morris
12 The Firs Combe Down,
BATH BA2 5ED
nickimorrisbath@hotmail.com

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2026

Principal Sponsor – ROPER FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST

GENERAL INFORMATION - continued

ADJUDICATORS FOR 2026

Creative Writing:

Alex Campbell

Speech & Drama:

Jean-Marc Perret

Katrina Mulvihill

Ann Bauer

Music:

Harriet Adie

Caroline Diffley

Sarah Jefferies

Gill Johnstone

Rebecca Moseley Morgan

Frith Trezevant

Angela Zanders

THE MID-SOMERSET FESTIVAL

is committed to an

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

- **There are no restrictions, apart from age-linked classes, in entry to the competitions.**
- **We welcome participation from any volunteers in the running of the Festival.**
- **Membership is open to anyone with sincere interest in and experience of the Festival.**

MID-SOMERSET FESTIVAL - CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The British and International **Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech** work for amateur festivals everywhere to help create thousands of educational performance opportunities for children and young people each year.

The Federation, and our member Festivals, are committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them.

This policy applies to our Board of Trustees, paid staff, Adjudicator members, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of the Federation and our member Festivals.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- to provide protection for the children and young people who participate in our festivals, including the children of festival members
- to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

The Federation will review this policy each year in November in line with Safe Network guidance or sooner in light of any changes in legislation or guidance. All changes will be communicated to our member Festivals in time for the start of the new Festival year.

CREATING SAFER FESTIVALS FOR EVERYONE

The Federation and its member Festivals use the following policies and procedures to create **Safer Festivals** for everyone:

- A single, definitive Child Protection Policy adopted by all Federation Festivals.
- One or more designated Festival Safeguarding Officers (FSO) appointed for each Federation Festival. Name: Lynne Barnes. Phone: 07393 982955
- Best practice advice in the form of **Safe Working Practice and Festival Child Protection leaflets**, with support and training for all Festival staff and volunteers. Including clear reporting procedures for anyone with a concern about a child.
- Appropriate recruitment and induction procedures for all new Festival staff and volunteers responsible for providing safe environments for everyone attending and/or performing at a Federation Festival.
- All Festival personnel wear an official badge. All teachers, parents, guardians and carers are asked to report all incidents of any nature to anyone wearing a badge. All reported incidents will be handled in accordance with the **Safe Working Practice and Festival Child Protection** best practice advice. In addition we will ensure the availability of a quiet area or room where concerns can be expressed in private.
- For the duration of a festival all teachers, parents, guardians, and carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/pupils. If they are unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibilities to an identified adult and ensure that their children/pupils are aware of the identity and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all Festival venues, practice and changing areas that may be provided. The Festival cannot take responsibility for any property left unattended.
- No unauthorised photography, audio or video recording of children and young people is allowed at our Festivals. Where parents/guardians/carers do not wish photos to be taken at all, then the responsible adult attending should ensure that their child is not included in official photos.
- Some children and vulnerable adults may have specific needs in order to take part. If this is the case we ask the responsible teachers, parents, guardians or carers to contact the Festival Secretary prior to arrival. The Festival actively seeks wherever possible to meet these needs, but must know beforehand in order to prepare support – or to advise that help cannot be provided on this occasion.
- The Festival's Child Protection Policy and approach to Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone is published explicitly in our Syllabus and Programme. By completing and signing the entry form all parents, guardians, carers and teachers of entrants under 18 (or vulnerable adults of any age) confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the entrants to take part in the Festival. **Without this consent entries to the Festival cannot be accepted.**

PRIVACY NOTICE



The Mid-Somerset Festival is a performing arts organisation run entirely by volunteers and registered with the Charity Commission (No.1166938).

It is a member of the British & International Federation of Festivals.

This privacy policy explains how we use any personal information we collect about you:

What information do we collect about you?

We collect information about you when you register to compete in the Festival, apply to become a Member of the Festival/Friend of the Festival or volunteer as a steward and also if you voluntarily complete surveys or give feedback. We will only ask for such information as is necessary for the efficient administration of the festival. We do not collect 'sensitive personal data' unless there is a legitimate reason for this – for example, where an entrant may need support to participate in a class, or where there is a legal requirement.

How will we use the information about you?

We collect information about you in order to process entry to classes in the Festival and for any other administrative functions of the Festival. Access to this data will be restricted to those personnel who administer the Festival.

Legal Basis

Personal data will not be collected and processed without your unconditional consent or where there is a legitimate interest..

Access to your data and correction

You have the right to request a copy of the information that we hold about you. This can be obtained, without charge, by application to the General Secretary (email: gen.sec@midsonersetfestival.org). We want to make sure that your personal information is accurate and up to date and all reasonable efforts will be made to ensure this is the case. You may ask us to correct or remove information you think is inaccurate.

Retention of data

Data may be retained according to the Festival's Data Protection Policy which may be found on the Festival website: www.midsonersetfestival.org or by application to the General Secretary (as above)

Do we share this information with anyone else?

The Festival will not pass collected data to any third party unless required to do so by law, but it should be noted that names (only) of competitors will appear in the Festival programme and the names of class winners will be posted to the Results pages of the Festival website. If you do not wish your name to appear in either of these places this should be made clear at the time of entry.

Transfer of data outside the European Economic Area (EEA)

Wherever possible the Festival does not use servers that are based outside the EEA. In the case of an exception the service provider must adhere to a code of conduct and security that complies with the requirements of the EEA.

Website and on-line entries

When you use our secure on-line entry system you will be directed to a specialist supplier company, who will receive your credit card number and contact information to process the payment. We do not retain your credit or debit card details.

Other Websites

Our website provides links to other websites. This privacy notice only applies to the Festival website, so when you link to other websites you should read their own privacy notices.

GENERAL RULES

1. STATUS

Entrants must be bona-fide amateurs. For the purposes of this Festival an amateur is defined as someone who does not derive his/her livelihood from the branch of performance, defined by the class title, in which he/she seeks to enter the Festival. In any ensemble, all members must adhere to that principle. This will apply unless it is clearly stated otherwise. The Chairmen reserve the right to decide whether any entrant is qualified to compete under this rule, and to accept or refuse any Entry.

2. ENTRIES

- a. Each entry must be on a separate official Entry Form (or Bulk Entry Form in respect of Speech and Drama only). Entries may also be made on-line, but will only be processed after payment has been received, which must be within seven days of entries. Forms may be photocopied.
- b. Entries, together with the correct fees, should be sent to the appropriate Entry Secretary no later than Wednesday 21 January 2026. The Entry Secretaries shall not be held responsible for entries made in wrong classes. Solo entries are not transferable, and fees will be forfeited when entries definitely registered are cancelled. Speech & Drama groups must be entered under a collective title.
- c. Any competitor withdrawing from the competition should notify the appropriate Entry Secretary or, during the Festival, the Festival Office at Bath Citadel. Tel 07396 707289
- d. The organising committees of the Festival reserve the right to cancel, combine or split classes according to the number of entries (very small classes may be cancelled or combined; very large classes may be split).

3. COMPETITION DETAILS

Details of time, date and venue of classes will be emailed to teachers or individual entrants before the start of the Festival. Competitors should make a note of class and entry number for use when collecting certificates/mark sheets at the Festival Office at Bath Citadel.

4. AGE LIMITS are reckoned as on 31 August 2025, and must be strictly observed.

5. PERFORMANCE ORDER

Competitors should perform in the order given in the programme. Any who are missing at the time will be called again at the end of the Class. The organisers will make every effort to avoid individual clashes of venue, provided that sufficient information is supplied on the Entry Form.

GENERAL RULES

6. CERTIFICATES/MARK SHEETS

The Adjudicator's written remarks will be available for all competitors. During Speech & Drama Week the mark sheets, together with any certificate gained, can be collected from the Festival Office shortly after the end of each class. During Music Week certificates and mark sheets will be given out in the competition room at the end of each class, at the discretion of the Adjudicator's Steward, or otherwise can be collected from the Festival Office. Certificates/Mark Sheets from all sections of the Festival which have not been collected from the Office by the end of the Festival will be retained by the relevant Entry Secretaries until the end of April and can be forwarded on receipt of postage.

7. SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Festival's Safeguarding Policy and approach to Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone is published explicitly in our Syllabus, Programme and Website. By completing and signing the entry form all parents/guardians/carers and teachers of entrants under 18 (or vulnerable adults of any age) confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the entrants to take part in the Festival. Without consent the entry to the Festival cannot be accepted.

- a. **TROPHIES** Trophies are awarded to class winners, these are at the discretion of the Adjudicator, provided that an appropriate standard is obtained (generally a mark of 81%). TROPHIES ARE HELD FOR ONE YEAR ONLY, AND NEVER WON OUTRIGHT, but a special certificate is also awarded to record the success. NOTE: not all classes have trophies, but every class has some token of recognition of best performance. Trophies must be signed for in the Competition Rooms before leaving. Winners should be prepared to take part in any of the Festival Concerts, if invited. All trophies should be included in the holder's Household Insurance Policy. Trophy holders are responsible for the cost of having their names suitably engraved if they so wish.
- b. **Trophies should be returned, securely packed, to the place specified on the recall label.**

8. SPECIAL NEEDS/SAFETY OF PERFORMERS

The Festival welcomes entries from candidates who have special needs, but notification of the nature of any condition must be made by letter to the relevant entry secretary before entries are submitted in order that adequate provision may be made. This is particularly important for candidates who require wheelchair access. To be most beneficial to candidates, as full an explanation as possible of the nature of the condition would be appreciated, together with documentary evidence if appropriate. It is necessary for teachers and parents to be aware of their responsibilities in entering any performers with limited physical capabilities or special needs, bearing in mind the limitations imposed by the stage and surrounding environment.

GENERAL RULES

9. COMMUNICATIONS

When Festival classes are in progress, competitors and their representatives may not communicate directly with an Adjudicator. Any necessary communication, including handing over copies of music for the adjudicator, should be made with the Adjudicator's Steward.

10. COPYRIGHT

The Festival is bound by copyright law and cannot allow photography, tape or video recording during any performance or adjudication.

11. LOST PROPERTY

The Festival cannot accept any responsibility for property left at venues during the Festival. Any lost property will be held at the Festival Office during the Festival period and then by the General Secretary.

12. MODIFICATION OF RULES

The Committee reserves the right to qualify or determine any of the rules; to change or supplement the Adjudicators; and to modify any provisional timetable issued, should the need arise.

13. COMPLAINTS

Any complaint regarding the organisation of the Festival or the conduct of its personnel must be MADE IN WRITING to the General Secretary within two weeks of the last day of the Festival. The complainant will be advised of the General Council's decision within 28 days from receipt of the complaint.

14. PRIVACY POLICY see page 7.



Apply to the Festival Bursary Scheme

CLOSING DATE: end of January 2026

Please send promptly to the Chair@mid Somerset Festival.org to avoid disappointment. If you need to discuss this please ring her on 07824 781348

The trustees of the Mid Somerset Festival recognize that there may be economic barriers to participation in the Festival or events with which it is associated, and have set up a scheme to offer practical assistance to schools/organisations or individuals in this position. The scheme is open to local schools/organisations and individuals, where 'local' is defined as being within 30 miles of Bath. Applicants outside this area may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Consideration will be given to applications for help with entry fees, travel costs (eg coach hire, for schools/organisations), or any other expense associated with performing at an MSF event.

Applications will be considered separately, according to the merits of each case, with priority being given to those applicants demonstrating most financial need. Applicants must provide full and relevant documentation.

A finite sum is set aside each year for this scheme. In the event that the total of all applications exceeds this amount, successful applicants may receive a proportion of the amount applied for. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

**Please contact us if this bursary could help you.
Application forms can be obtained from
chair@mid Somerset Festival.org**



JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE SECTION – continued

- 135** Years 7,8 and 9: SHORT STORY up to 500 words
Own Choice or Set Title:
a. *A Telescope to the Past* b. *The House in the Sky*
- 136** Years 7,8, and 9: an original POEM of not fewer than 12 nor more than 24 lines
Own Choice or Set Title:
a. *The Broken Wing* b. *The Frozen Tear*
- 137** Years 10 and 11: SHORT STORY up to 600 words
Own Choice or Set Title:
a. *Which Way to Home?* b. *The Friend I Once Knew*
- 138** Years 12 and 13: SHORT STORY up to 750 words
Own Choice or Set Title:
a. *The Dreamer* b. *Walking over Ice*
- 139** Years 10, 11, 12 and 13: MONOLOGUE
Own Choice or Set Title:
a. *Behind the mirror* b. *It Wasn't My Fault*

SENIOR SECTION – 19 YEARS AND OVER

EVERLYN SANDFORD SENIOR LITERARY TROPHY

The competitor gaining the Highest Mark in Classes 140 - 146 inclusive will be the winner of the Evelyn Sandford Senior Literary Trophy. A £50 poetry prize will be awarded to the competitor with the highest overall mark in Classes 140, 143, 145 & 146; an additional £50 prize will be awarded for the highest overall mark in Classes 141, 142 & 144.

- 140** Senior POEM up to 40 lines
Own Choice or Set Title:
a. *The Lost Camera* b. *The Journey*
- 141** Senior MONOLOGUE up to 500 words.
The scene should be set in no more than 20 words.
Own Choice or Set Title:
a. *The Watch hadn't Told the Time for Eighty Years* b. *In My Pocket*
- 142** Senior DUOLOGUE up to 500 words
The scene should be set in no more than 20 words.
Own Choice or Set Title:
a. *Bus Stop Strangers* b. *Meet me under the Clock*
- 143** Senior POEM
Suggested by a newspaper item or any other visual stimulus (e.g. photograph or postcard). The item is to be included with the poem. The stimulus and poem must be sent in **HARDCOPY** format
Own Choice

SENIOR SECTION – 19 YEARS AND OVER – continued

- 144** Senior SHORT STORY up to 1,500 words
Own Choice or Set Title:
- a. *The Last Dinner Party* b. *Only Witness to the Crime*
- 145** Senior SONNET
Own Choice or Set Title:
- a. *Regrets and Dreams* b. *Love and Hate*
- 146** Senior HAIKU
Up to 3 haiku on a linked theme
Own Choice

CREATIVE WRITING RULES

- All entries must be the original and unpublished work of the competitors and must not have been entered for any previous Mid-Somerset competition.
- Note the rule regarding anonymity:** entries for Senior Classes (140 -146) must include only the title of the work, the class number and the word count. Contact details (name, address, e-mail, phone number plus the title) should be on a separate sheet of paper or on the entry form.
- Marks will be subtracted for exceeding the set number of words. In the Senior Section the line limit on poetry has been removed.
- Manuscripts and Entry Forms should be sent to Jane Riekemann, Co-secretary of Creative Writing 20 Penn Lea Rd, Bath, BA1 3RA by **Wednesday January 21 2026**. Please **DO NOT** send as registered mail (i.e. 'To be Signed for'). An A4 self-addressed envelope with a **LARGE LETTER** stamp should be included for the return of any uncollected work plus certificates if you are unable to come to Creative Writing Day. To enter online please go to midsomersetfestival.org.uk
JUNIOR/INT SECTION: Even if you enter online you must still send a Hard Copy to the above address. No online submissions will be accepted.
SENIOR SECTION: you may enter online (apart from Class 143) and email your work in PDF format, though a Hard Copy is preferred.
- For age limits see General Rule No 4. Also, **please read carefully** General Rule No 6 regarding trophies and their return.

NB. It is hoped that all entrants will be able to attend the Festival Day when the Adjudicator will be present to comment on their work, and the cups and certificates will be presented but you can still enter if you are unable to be present on the day.

SPEECH AND DRAMA CLASSES 2026

REFERENCES

All selections are available from the **Selections Secretary:**
 Jane Dickson: Tel: 07557 760988 | E-mail: janesdickson@gmail.com

FEES		
SOLO	Primary, Junior and Senior Open	£ 7.00
DUO	Primary, Junior and Senior Open	£14.00
GROUP	Primary, Junior and Senior Open	£20.00

See Specific Fees beside 88 and 89 Repertoire Classes

PROVISIONAL SPEECH & DRAMA TIMETABLE

As far as possible classes will be scheduled as follows:

Primary Section

Classes 1-13 Tuesday March 10

Open Section

Group classes Tuesday March 10
 Public Speaking Thursday March 13
 and TV news

Academic years 7-9 Tuesday March 10 & Wednesday March 11
 Academic years 3-6 Thursday March 12
 Academic years 10+ 4:30pm – 9pm Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday

Friday March 13 Speech & Drama Concert & Special Awards 6.30pm

**PRIMARY SECTION
 TUESDAY 10 MARCH
 THE BATH CITADEL (SALVATION ARMY) GREEN PARK ROAD**

A Primary School is a school maintained by the Local Authority for children under 12. PLEASE NOTE: All entries in Primary Section should be sent from the School.

Pupils who attend Primary Schools may enter either the Primary Section **OR** the Junior Open Section but if receiving private tuition pupils must enter the Junior Open Classes only.

Age as at 31st August 2025

Introductions are NOT included in the time limit

Outstanding performers and trophy winners may be invited to perform at the Speech & Drama Awards evening.

VERSE SPEAKING – All Verse to be memorised. See Speech & Drama Rules 2 & 7

- 1 PRIMARY VERSE SPEAKING YEAR 1
Set Piece: *Christmas Cat by Clare Bevan*
Or *Rain by Shel Silverstein*
- 2 PRIMARY VERSE SPEAKING YEAR 2
Set Piece: *Elephant Walking by Clive Sansom*
Or *Open Hydrant by Marci Ridlon*
- 3 PRIMARY VERSE SPEAKING YEAR 3
Set Piece: *A Stick Insect by Brian Moses*
Or *I like to Swing by Trevor Millum*
- 4 PRIMARY VERSE SPEAKING YEAR 4
Set Piece: *Eletelephony by Laura Elizabeth Richards*
Or *The First Bit by Coral Rumble*
- 5 PRIMARY VERSE SPEAKING YEAR 5
Set Piece: *Birthday Bike by Ivan Jones*
Or *Snakes and Fairies by Pie Corbett*
- 6 PRIMARY VERSE SPEAKING. YEAR 6
Set Piece: *Shadow Collector by Peter Dixon*
Or *James Bond Car by Roger Stevens*

PREPARED READING CLASSES

- | | | Time Limit |
|---|---|-------------------|
| 7 | PRIMARY PREPARED PROSE READING YEARS 3 & 4
Own Choice passage from any book by <i>Sue Mongredien</i> | 90 secs |
| 8 | PRIMARY PREPARED PROSE READING. YEARS 5 & 6
Own Choice passage from any book by <i>Cressida Cowell</i> | 90 secs |

DUOLOGUE ACTING CLASSES

From any play or dramatisation from a novel. Sketches are permitted from published texts and from exam Syllabi, but must be cut to comply with Festival time limits. In ALL Acting Classes, minimal hand props are permitted. However, the Festival encourages the use of mime instead of props. Costume is not allowed. Appropriate practice clothing permitted. See Speech & Drama Rule 5.

- | | | Time Limit |
|----|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 9 | PRIMARY DUO ACTING YEARS 3 & 4 | 4 mins |
| 10 | PRIMARY DUO ACTING YEARS 5 & 6 | 4 mins |

GROUP CLASSES – No fewer than 3 performers

		Time Limit
11	PRIMARY GROUP VERSE SPEAKING <i>Movement, music or sound effects may be included in the performance</i> Own Choice	4 mins
12	PRIMARY GROUP MIME Set Title: <i>Escape</i>	5 mins
13	PRIMARY GROUP ACTING. Award £50	8 mins

JUNIOR AND SENIOR – OPEN
TUESDAY 10 MARCH – FRIDAY 13 MARCH

Age as at 31st August 2025. Open to entrants up to 21 years.

Outstanding performers and trophy winners may be invited to perform at the Speech & Drama Awards evening.

Introductions are NOT included in the time limit.

VERSE SPEAKING – All Verse to be memorised. See Speech & Drama Rules 2 & 7

		Time Limit
14	VERSE SPEAKING OPEN YEAR 1 <i>Set Piece: Tadpoles by Stanley Cook</i> or any poem on the theme of <i>Pond Life</i>	50 secs
15	VERSE SPEAKING OPEN YEAR 2 <i>Set Piece: An Alligator I Saw in Florida by Wes Magee</i> or any poem on the theme of <i>Animals</i>	50 secs
16	VERSE SPEAKING OPEN YEAR 3 <i>Set Piece: Making the Countryside by June Crebbin</i> or any poem on the theme of <i>Countryside</i>	60 secs
17	VERSE SPEAKING OPEN YEAR 4 <i>Set Piece: Midnight by Jeremy Reed</i> or any poem on the theme of <i>Night Time</i>	70 secs
18	VERSE SPEAKING OPEN YEAR 5 <i>Set Piece: In the Time of the Wolf by Gillian Clarke</i> or any poem on the theme of <i>Time</i>	80 secs
19	VERSE SPEAKING OPEN YEAR 6 <i>Set Piece: Old Men of Magic by Dionne Brand</i> or any poem on the theme of <i>Magic</i>	85 secs

VERSE SPEAKING – All Verse to be memorised. See Speech & Drama Rules 2 & 7

	Time Limit
20 VERSE SPEAKING OPEN YEAR 7 Set Piece: <i>An Owl Flew in My Bedroom</i> by Jan Dean Or any poem on the theme of <i>Woodland Creatures</i>	90 secs
21 VERSE SPEAKING OPEN YEAR 8 Set Piece: <i>Floodwaters</i> by David Harmer or any poem on the theme of <i>Environment</i>	90 secs
22 VERSE SPEAKING OPEN YEAR 9 Set Piece: <i>Catching Frogs</i> by Jane Kenyon or any other poem or extract from a poem by <i>Jane Kenyon</i>	105 secs
23 VERSE SPEAKING OPEN YEARS 10 & 11 Set Piece: <i>Stars and Planets</i> by Norman MacCaig or any other poem or extract from a poem by <i>Norman MacCaig</i>	2½ mins
24 VERSE SPEAKING OPEN YEAR 12 and above Set Piece: <i>In Blackwater Woods</i> by Mary Oliver or any other poem or extract from a poem by <i>Mary Oliver</i>	2½ mins
25 SONNET YEAR 9 and above Own Choice or Set Piece: <i>The Unending Sky</i> by John Masefield	
26 DUO VERSE SPEAKING YEARS 3-6 Own Choice	3 mins

BIBLE PREPARED READING CLASSES - SOLO

Own Choice from any version of THE BIBLE or THE THOMAS CRANMER PRAYER BOOK

	Time Limit
27 BIBLE PREPARED READING YEARS 3-6	2½ mins
28 BIBLE PREPARED READING YEARS 7-9.	2½ mins
29 BIBLE PREPARED READING YEAR 10 and above	3 mins

READING ALOUD

With the **EXCEPTION OF Class 30 and 31** the entrant will be required to read a passage at sight selected by the Adjudicator.

	Time Limit
30 PREPARED READING YEARS 1 & 2 A prepared passage from any book	90 secs
31 PREPARED READING YEARS 3 & 4 A prepared passage from any book by <i>Sue Mongredien</i>	90 secs
32 READING ALOUD YEARS 5 & 6 Set Book: <i>How to Train Your Dragon: How to Be a Pirate</i> , by <i>Cressida Cowell</i>	90 secs
33 READING ALOUD YEARS 7 & 8 Set Book: <i>Time Travelling with a Hamster</i> by <i>Ross Welford</i>	2 mins

SIGHT READING

The entrant will be provided with a Sight Reading test of Verse or Prose selected by the Festival

- 34** SIGHT READING YEARS 9 & 10
35 SIGHT READING YEAR 11 and above

MEMORISED PROSE CLASSES – See Speech & Drama Rules 2, 6 & 7

An Own Choice Passage to be spoken from memory from a book of your choice

	Time Limit
36 MEMORISED PROSE YEARS 3 & 4	2 mins
37 MEMORISED PROSE YEARS 5 & 6	2 mins
38 MEMORISED PROSE YEARS 7 & 8	2½ mins
39 MEMORISED PROSE YEARS 9 & 10	2½ mins
40 MEMORISED PROSE YEAR 11 and above	3 mins
41 CLASSICAL PROSE YEAR 9 and above Own Choice from any book written before 1910	3 mins

STORY TELLING

The entrant will be provided with a Sight Reading test of Verse or Prose selected by the Festival

- 42** STORYTELLING YEARS 7 -10

MIME CLASSES

DUO MIME

			Time Limit
43	DUO MIME YEARS 5 & 6	Set Title: <i>The Pest</i>	4 mins
44	DUO MIME YEAR 9 and under	Set Title: <i>Superstition</i>	4 mins
45	DUO MIME YEAR 13 and under	Set Title: <i>Split</i>	4 mins

SOLO MIME

46	SOLO MIME YEARS 5 & 6	Set Title: <i>Forbidden Treats</i>	3 mins
47	SOLO MIME YEARS 7 – 9	Set Title: <i>Guiltily Conscience</i>	3 mins
48	SOLO MIME YEARS 10 – 13	Set Title: <i>Should I?</i>	3 mins

GROUP CLASSES

Groups must enter under a Collective Title NOT individual names

		Time Limit
49	GROUP MIME YEAR 7 and under No fewer than 3 performers. Set Title: <i>Rollercoaster</i>	5 mins
50	GROUP SPEAKING YEAR 6 and under Own Choice. No fewer than 3 speakers. See Rule 3. Groups must perform ONE memorised piece which must be either POETRY or PROSE. Movement, sound effects/music may be included in the performance. GROUP DEVISED PERFORMANCE. No fewer than 3 performers. The performance must have a defined shape. Character and situation must be considered.	5 mins
51	YEAR 11 and under. Set Title: <i>Chain Reaction</i> or an Own Choice Piece.	10 mins
52	YEAR 13 and under. Set Title: <i>Let us entertain you!</i> or an Own Choice Piece.	10 mins
53	GROUP SHAKESPEARE ACTING YEAR 6 and under No fewer than 3 nor more than 30 performers. Scenes from any Shakespeare Play. Original text must be used but may be abridged with added narration. Sound effects/music and minimal props may be used. No costume.	10 mins

GROUP MIME CLASSES

		Time Limit
54	<p>GROUP THEMED PERFORMANCE YEAR 6 and under. No fewer than 3 nor more than 30 performers. To present an Own Choice performance incorporating at least THREE of the following: Acting, Verse Speaking, Choral Speaking, Memorised Prose, Mime, Dance or Devised Drama. Published text / literature must predominate. Music may be used. Minimal props and a small suggestion of clothing optional. No costume.</p> <p>GROUP ACTING. No fewer than 3 performers. From any play or dramatization of a novel. See General Rule 5. Entrants and teachers are asked to show sensitivity in their choice of text and language.</p>	10 mins
55	YEAR 6 and under	8 mins
56	YEAR 9 and under	10 mins
57	19 YEARS and under	10 mins

ACTING

From any play or dramatisation of a novel. Sketches are permitted from published texts and from exam syllabi, but must be cut to comply with Festival time limits. In ALL Acting Classes, minimal hand props are permitted. However, the Festival encourages the use of mime instead of props. Costume is not allowed. Appropriate practice clothing permitted. Entrants and teachers are asked to show sensitivity in their choice of text and language. See General Rule 5.

DUOLOGUE ACTING

		Time Limit
58	DUO ACTING YEAR 4 and under	4 mins
59	DUO ACTING YEAR 5 and under	4 mins
60	DUO ACTING YEAR 6 and under	4 mins
61	DUO ACTING YEAR 7 and under	4 mins
62	DUO ACTING YEAR 8 and under	5 mins
63	DUO ACTING YEAR 9 and under	5 mins
64	DUO ACTING YEAR 11 and under	5 mins
65	DUO ACTING 21 and under	5 mins

DUOLOGUE SHAKESPEARE *Speech or Scene from any play.*

		Time Limit
66	DUO SHAKESPEARE YEARS 5 & 6	6 mins
67	DUO SHAKESPEARE YEARS 7 - 10	6 mins
68	DUO SHAKESPEARE 21 and under	6 mins

ACTING

SOLO ACTING

Time Limit

69	SOLO ACTING YEAR 3	3 mins
70	SOLO ACTING YEAR 4	3 mins
71	SOLO ACTING YEAR 5	3 mins
72	SOLO ACTING YEAR 6	3 mins
73	SOLO ACTING YEAR 7	3 mins
74	SOLO ACTING YEAR 8	4 mins
75	SOLO ACTING YEAR 9	4 mins
76	SOLO ACTING YEAR 10	4 mins
77	SOLO ACTING YEAR 11	4 mins
78	SOLO ACTING 21 and under	4 mins

SOLO SHAKESPEARE

Time Limit

Speech or Scene for ONE CHARACTER ONLY from any play.

79	SOLO SHAKESPEARE YEARS 5 & 6	5 mins
80	SOLO SHAKESPEARE YEARS 7 - 9	5 mins
81	SOLO SHAKESPEARE YEARS 10 & 11	5 mins
82	SOLO SHAKESPEARE 21 and under	5 mins

NEW AUDITION CLASS

Time Limit

83	YEAR 10 and above. Own Choice Speech or Scene from two plays. One Shakespeare and One Contemporary.	4 mins
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CLASSICAL DRAMA EXCLUDING SHAKESPEARE

Time Limit

84	YEAR 9 and above. Own Choice Speech or Scene for ONE character from any play written before 1910.	5 mins
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REPERTOIRE- SOLO – Fee for classes 88 & 89: £10

Time Limit

85	REPERTOIRE YEARS 7-9. Award: £50 To create a varied performance using a mix of work with an introduction, linking words and conclusion on a THEME to include Verse, Drama plus at least ONE of the following: Memorised Prose, Prepared Reading or Mime. Music, sound effects and minimal props may be used. Work entered in other classes may be incorporated.	8-10 mins
86	REPERTOIRE YEAR 10 and over. Award: £50 To create a varied performance using a mix of work with an introduction, linking words and conclusion on a THEME to include Verse, Drama plus at least ONE of the following: Classical Performance pre 1910, Memorised Prose, Prepared Reading or Mime. Music sound effects and minimal props may be used. Work entered in other classes may be incorporated.	10-12 mins

TELEVISION NEWSREADING

For these classes - a NEWS BULLETIN will be sent ten days before the Festival. The entrant will present a prepared reading from the script provided, and will conclude with ONE OWN CHOICE news item. Table and Chair will be provided.

Time Limit

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 87 | TELEVISION NEWSREADING. YEARS 5 & 6 | 3 mins |
| 88 | TELEVISION NEWSREADING. YEARS 7 - 10 | 3 mins |

PUBLIC SPEAKING SOLO

Speeches must be composed by the competitor. Minimal notes and visual aids may be used. Please note that the use of technical equipment will not be permitted for Class 92, but may be used for Classes 93, 94 and 95. Entrants must be responsible for supplying and setting-up their own equipment, for which extra time will be allowed before classes start.

Time Limit

- | | | |
|-----------|--|--------|
| 89 | PUBLIC SPEAKING YEAR 6 and under
Own Choice or Set Title: <i>What are the best pets? Dogs, cats or something else?</i> | 3 mins |
| 90 | PUBLIC SPEAKING YEARS 7-9.
Own Choice or Set Title: <i>Should we have to wear school uniform?</i> | 4 mins |
| 91 | PUBLIC SPEAKING YEARS 10-13.
Own Choice or Set Title: <i>Should we be scared of AI?</i> | 5 mins |
| 92 | PUBLIC SPEAKING PREPARED - OPEN TO ALL AGES
Competitors to enter in Groups of 3:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THE CHAIRMAN who will announce the type of audience to be addressed and introduce the Speaker 2. THE SPEAKER 3. THE PROPOSER of the Vote of Thanks | 8 mins |

YOUTH DEBATING YEAR 13 AND UNDER

Award: £100

Time Limit

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---------|
| 93 | SEE SPEECH & DRAMA RULE 9 AND SPECIAL AWARDS SECTION.
Competitors to enter in Groups of 3: Own Choice Subject
THE CHAIRMAN whose role is
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To introduce the Speakers and Topic for debate (b) To invite comments from the floor (c) To take the Vote and close the proceedings <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THE PROPOSER 2. THE OPPOSER | 15 mins |
|-----------|---|---------|

- 1 OWN CHOICE** The printed books or copies of own choice pieces must be brought by the Performers and handed to the Adjudicator's Steward before performing. Cuts should be clearly marked. Title and author of all Own Choice items must be supplied in writing at the time of performance, in order to comply with Performing Rights Rules. All Own Choice selections must be by published authors.
- 2 VERSE / PROSE** Gesture and movement are **NOT** permitted in the speaking of Lyrical Verse. All Verse must be memorised. Gesture is allowed in the speaking of Memorised Prose.
- 3 GROUP SPEAKING / DUO VERSE** Movement optional. Music or Sound Effects may be included but equipment must be provided by the Entrant. Hand props allowed.

Groups must enter under a Collective Title, NOT Individual Names.

- 4 MIME CLASSES.** In all Mime Classes no-one under Year 5 may enter. No costume or handprops are allowed. Table and chairs will be provided. Shoes if worn must have soft soles. Sound effects or music may accompany the mime offstage, but equipment must be provided by the Entrant.

N.B. DANCE DRAMA is not accepted in these classes. See Class 51.

- 5 ACTING CLASSES.** In all classes a scene from any published play or dramatisation of a novel may be used. Sketches are permitted from published texts and from Exam Syllabi, but must be cut to comply with Festival time limits. Performers should set their own scene. Solo performers must use the lines of ONE character only. No performer may appear in more than one scene in the same class. Chairs and tables will be provided by the Committee. Sound effects or music may accompany the acting / devised performance offstage but equipment must be provided by the Entrant.

In ALL Acting Classes, minimal hand props are permitted. However, the Festival encourages the use of mime instead of props. Costume is not allowed. Appropriate practice clothing permitted. See General Rules.

GROUP ACTING CLASSES. These must consist of three or more speaking parts, and Entrants cannot enter the same scene in more than one class. Performers may not enter the same class more than once. In School Classes, entrants in each group must be from the same school.

Groups must enter under a Collective Title, NOT Individual Names.

- 6 TIME LIMITS.** All Time Limits must be strictly observed. Entrants may be penalised if exceeded, and marks will be deducted. Introductions are **NOT** included in the time limit.
- 7 CONDUCTING** or Offstage direction in any class will incur a penalty.
- 8 SUBSTITUTIONS.** Any School or Club entering Performers in Solo or Duologue Classes must put the name(s) of any entrants on the Entry Form. No substitution will be allowed. Substitutions are allowed in Group Performances.
- 9 YOUTH DEBATING and PUBLIC SPEAKING CLASSES.** Speeches must be composed by the Competitor. Minimal notes and visual aids may be used. Technical Equipment will be permitted for Public Speaking Classes, with the exception of Class 90.

NB: Performers and teachers are asked to show sensitivity towards their audience in their choice of text and language.

1 COPYRIGHT The Mid-Somerset Festival is pleased to announce that it has entered into an Agreement with the Authors Licensing and Collecting Society. This means that entrants do not have to seek Copyright permission for any POETRY, PROSE or SOLO DRAMATIC ITEMS performed, to a time limit of ten minutes. Authors will be directly reimbursed as a consequence of their work being performed at this Festival. The entrance fee includes a contribution to the fund. **ONE ACT PLAYS, DUOLOGUES and GROUP DRAMATIC ACTIVITIES are not covered by this Agreement and copyright should be sought by performers at the time of entry.**

2 AWARDS There will be an award for every class.

3 MAJOR AWARDS

Major awards are presented at the discretion of the Speech & Drama committee using a combination of marks and adjudicator feedback

THE MURIEL CATLING MEMORIAL TROPHY

For a stand out Performance in Year 6 & under classes

THE GILBERT CUP

For a stand out Performance in Year 7 – 9 Classes

THE CELIA POWELL MEMORIAL TROPHY

for a stand out performance in the Shakespeare Classes 80, 81 and 82

THE MISS NASMYTH MEMORIAL AWARD

for a stand out Senior Performance. Year 10 and above.

THE EVELYN SANDFORD REPERTOIRE TROPHY

For stand out performances across a range of disciplines.

NB. a minimum entry into 3 classes is required.

REPERTOIRE CLASSES.

Trophy and prize for each class of £50.00

CLASSICAL REPERTOIRE TROPHY

to the competitor who attains the highest combined mark by performing in the following three classes: Classical Drama, Sonnet and Classical Memorised Prose

THE ADKINS & LAWMAN DUO AWARD

for a stand out Performance in duologue classes

PRIMARY GROUP ACTING.

Trophy and prize of £50.00

ROBERT SPARKES TROPHY

AWARD of £100 to the winning School,

Organisation or Group in the Youth Debating Competition

The major trophies listed above may be presented at the Speech & Drama Concert to be held on **Friday 13 March 2026 at 6.30pm - 8.30pm at the Mission Theatre**

MUSICAL THEATRE

FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026

FEES: Solo: £7.00 | Duo: £14.00 | Trio/Quartet: £18 | Ensemble: £20

Class			Time limit
MT1	Year 6 and under	Solo	4 mins
MT2	Year 9 and under	Solo	4 mins
MT3	Year 11 and under	Solo	5 mins
MT4	OPEN	Solo	6 mins
MT5	Year 6 and under	Duo	6 mins
MT6	Year 9 and under	Duo	7 mins
MT7	Year 11 and under	Duo	8 mins
MT8	OPEN	Duo	8 mins
MT9	Year 7 and under	Trio/Quartet	10 mins
MT10	Year 13 and under	Trio/Quartet	10 mins
MT11	OPEN	Ensemble	15 mins

Minimum of 5 and maximum of 8 performers.

Please read Musical Theatre and General rules

The emphasis is on a complete performance and presentation, rather than solely a study of music, and will show ability in acting, singing, dancing and choreographic skills. Performances must show implicit dramatic content with portrayal of characters and their motivations. This is an opportunity to explore style, form and character through communicating the dramatic content of a musical text. Extracts from plays may be edited to create dialogue moving into musical scenes. (see copyright rules).

A piano is provided for those wishing to bring their own accompanist. Backing tracks may be used and should be sent in advance (see Musical Theatre rules)

All performances must be from memory, and clearly introduced.

A suggestion of costume and minimal hand-props will be permitted (**see Rule 2c**).

Where there is a sufficiently large entry in a class it will be split into age related groups.

Please note some classes may take place in the evening.

1 COPYRIGHT

a. The festival does not accept liability for the infringement of copyright recording or performing rights arising out of an entrant's accompaniment or performance. It contributes to a group license to cover payment of fees for the use of recorded music at its events. Teachers and choreographers using tapes created from commercial recordings are advised that they are themselves responsible for seeking permission to re-record from the recording companies concerned. Performers or teachers with queries on how to obtain copyright permission for performance items should contact Festivals House (British and International Federation of Festivals) on 01625 428297 or email at info@federationoffestivals.org.uk before making their entries.

b. The use of photo or other facsimile copies of printed material without the publisher's permission is forbidden as contrary to law. However, when material is part of a volume, and not published separately, a copy may be made for the Adjudicator, provided that the entrant has already purchased a copy. The photocopy will be retained and then destroyed by the festival.

2. PERFORMANCE

a. Chairs and a table will be provided

b. A copy of the musical theatre track you will be using must be sent in advance. This should be an emailed MP3/MP4, clearly labelled with the class number and name of the entrant, and should contain one instrumental track only. You will be advised where to send your recordings once your entry is made.

c. Minimal props and a suggestion of costume essential to the action or character may be used. N.B Full stage costume is discouraged and may contravene copyright

d. Please provide a copy of the script and music for the adjudicator and a further copy of script for the sound operator

3. TIME LIMITS

Time limits must be strictly observed. Introductions are not included in the time limit and 2 minutes are allowed for set up.

MUSIC CLASSES 2026

VOCAL CLASSES (Age as on 31/08/25)

MONDAY 16 and TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026

THE BATH CITADEL (SALVATION ARMY) GREEN PARK ROAD, BA1 1XE

1. Competitors may not enter more than 5 classes.
2. All songs must be sung from memory except in Class V18 Oratorio.
3. The entry fee for classes V1 – V9 and V11– V13 includes use of the official accompanist (optional).
4. Classes V10 and V14 – V17 and V19 have a £7 fee for use of the official accompanist if required. The accompanist fee for V18 is £10.
5. Music for the accompanist must be sent in pdf form to the entry secretary by Monday 9 February. Please note, copies should be of sufficient quality that they are playable without difficulty. Please include metronome markings.
6. It may be possible to arrange a rehearsal with the Official Accompanist at a fee to be negotiated privately. Please consult the Vocal Entry Secretary.
7. An Art Song is defined as one which is composed as a single entity, inspired by good poetry. Folksongs, arias from opera or sacred works, and “pop” style songs should not be offered.
8. The KING VOCAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SINGER AGE 16 – 19 is a prize of £150. To be eligible for this award competitors must enter classes V18 (Vocal Recital) and two others from V15 - V17

Class	Fee	Description	Time limit
V1	£10.00	SHOW SONG FROM MUSICAL OR FILM (10 years and under)	3 mins
V2	£10.00	SHOW SONG FROM MUSICAL OR FILM (11 years)	3 mins
V3	£10.00	SHOW SONG FROM MUSICAL OR FILM (12 years)	3½ mins
V4	£10.00	SHOW SONG FROM MUSICAL OR FILM (13 years)	3½ mins
V5	£10.00	SHOW SONG FROM MUSICAL OR FILM (14 years)	3½ mins
V6	£10.00	OPERETTA OR SHOW SONG (15 years)	3½ mins
V7	£10.00	OWN CHOICE SONG (11 years and under) excluding songs from musicals and films	3 mins
V8	£10.00	ART SONG (12 & 13 years)	3½ mins
V9	£10.00	ART SONG (14 & 15 years)	3½ mins

VOCAL CLASSES

Class Fee		Time limit
V10 £11.00	VOCAL RECITAL (15 years and under) Own choice of two songs, one pre-20th century, one 20th /21st century. Time limit includes spoken introduction. In order that details of your recital may be published in the programme, please ensure we have all information on the entry form.	8 mins
V11 £11.00	DUET OR TRIO (13 years and under) Songs offered must be mainly in harmony	3 mins
V12 £11.00	DUET OR TRIO (15 years and under) Songs offered must be mainly in harmony.	3½ mins
V13 £11.00	ENSEMBLE (max 12 voices) (15 years and under) Songs offered must be mainly in harmony.	4 mins
V14 £8.50	SHOW SONG FROM MUSICAL OR FILM (16 – 19 years)	4½ mins
V15 £8.50	ART SONG (16 – 19 years)	4½ mins
V16 £8.50	OPERA OR OPERETTA (16 – 19 years)	4½ mins
V17 £9.50	ORATORIO OR OTHER SACRED WORK (16 – 19 years) to include recitative where appropriate	6 mins
V18 £13.00	VOCAL RECITAL (16 – 19 years) Own choice of 3 songs, one of which should be in a language other than English. One song should be pre-1750, one 18th/19th century, and one 20th/21st century. Construction and presentation of programme will be taken into account. Time limit includes spoken introduction. In order that details of your recital may be published in the programme, please ensure we have all information on the entry form.	10 mins
V19 £9.50	DUET/TRIO in harmony 16 – 19 years)	4½ mins

INSTRUMENTAL - SOLO CLASSES**MONDAY 16 MARCH – STEINWAY MUSIC SCHOOL, ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL (Harps Only)****TUESDAY 17 MARCH, WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH, THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2026****THE BATH CITADEL, GREEN PARK RD, BA1 1XE****Classes IN1 – IN5 are for lower and upper strings, classical guitar, woodwind and brass.****Classes IN6 – IN9 are for harps.****Classes IN10 - IN12 are for lower and upper strings, harps, classical guitar, woodwind and brass.**

1. The maximum number of classes competitors may enter from the solo instrumental and solo piano classes combined is 5.
2. Solo classes are open to performers of all ages unless specified otherwise.
3. An official accompanist is available for Preliminary, Elementary, Transitional and Intermediate classes. The fee is £7.
4. Music for the official accompanist must be sent in pdf form to the entry secretary by Monday 9 February. Please note, copies should be of sufficient quality that they are playable without difficulty. Please include metronome markings.
5. Competitors should provide a pianist (who is not adjudicated) for Repertoire, Advanced and Concerto classes.
6. It may be possible to arrange a rehearsal with the Official Accompanist at a fee to be negotiated privately.
7. The following classes carry special awards:
IN10 Jennifer Paterson Award - £100,
IN11 Thelma King Instrumental Award - £600
IN12 Concerto class - £100
8. The Thelma King Instrumental class will take place on Tuesday evening, 17 March

Classes IN1 – IN5**LOWER AND UPPER STRINGS, CLASSICAL GUITAR, WOODWIND AND BRASS**

Class	Fee		Time limit
IN1	£7.50	PRELIMINARY A non-competitive class for players of any age of pre-Grade 1 standard. Own choice of one or two pieces. Graded examination pieces may not be played in this class.	3 mins
IN2	£7.50	ELEMENTARY One or two pieces of elementary standard ie Grade 1 or 2	4 mins
IN3	£9.00	TRANSITIONAL One or two pieces of transitional standard ie Grade 3 or 4	5 mins
IN4	£10.00	INTERMEDIATE One or two pieces of intermediate standard ie Grade 5 or 6	8 mins
IN5	£12.50	ADVANCED One or two pieces of advanced standard ie Grade 7 and above	10 mins

THE THELMA KING INSTRUMENTAL AWARD

An annual award
for high achievers in
the solo instrumental
classes

Thanks to the generosity of **Thelma King** and her family the festival is delighted to offer a financial award to the winner of the Advanced Repertoire Class IN11 to be used in support of the winner's musical career, eg a summer school, music lessons or towards a new instrument.

The payment of this award will be subject to the approval of the music committee.



Classes IN6 – IN9**HARPS**

Class Fee		Time limit
IN6 £8.50	ELEMENTARY One or two pieces up to Grade 3 standard	3 mins
IN7 £10.00	INTERMEDIATE One or two pieces up to Grade 5 standard	8 mins
IN8 £12.50	ADVANCED - MAYOR OF BATH'S AWARD One or two pieces of Grade 6 and above standard	10 mins
IN9 £8.00 per performer	HARP WORKSHOP The hour long workshop will be led by the adjudicator, Harriet Adie. Depending on entry numbers and standards, the workshop may be split as appropriate.	

Classes IN10 - IN12**LOWER AND UPPER STRINGS, HARPS, CLASSICAL GUITAR, WOODWIND AND BRASS**

Class Fee		Time limit
IN10 £11.50	JENNIFER PATERSON AWARD (14 years and under) A repertoire class especially for high achievers in the younger age group. Two pieces, but at least one composed since 1950.	10 min
IN11 £14.50	ADVANCED REPERTOIRE THELMA KING INSTRUMENTAL AWARD Two or three pieces of contrasting style and period of advanced standard ie grade 8 and above. One at least should be from memory. In order that your chosen pieces may be published in the programme, please ensure we have all information on the entry form. It is the festival's policy that previous winners of this award may not enter this class.	15 mins <i>To include tuning</i>
IN12 £14.50	CONCERTO All or part of a concerto or similar substantial work in concerto style as agreed with the instrumental secretary (ie composed with orchestral accompaniment) lasting no longer than 15 minutes. Competitors should provide a pianist (who is not adjudicated) for the orchestral part. It may be possible, through the Entry Secretary, to make a private arrangement with an Official Accompanist at a fee to be negotiated privately. However, this cannot be guaranteed.	15 mins <i>To include tuning</i>

In order that your chosen pieces may be published in the programme, please ensure we have all information on the entry form.

INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES – DUO/TRIO, ENSEMBLE AND BANDS
WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026
THE BATH CITADEL (SALVATION ARMY) GREEN PARK ROAD, BA1 1XE

For any combination of instruments including piano
 Minimum number of players – 2, maximum number of players – 20.

Class Fee	Time limit
IN13 £10.00 DUO/TRIO FOR ANY INSTRUMENTS – Year 6 and under One or two pieces	4 mins
IN14 £11.00 ENSEMBLE - Year 6 and under Up to 16 players One or two pieces	6 mins
IN15 £10.00 DUO/TRIO FOR ANY INSTRUMENTS – Year 8 and under One or two pieces	4 mins
IN16 £11.00 ENSEMBLE - Year 8 and under Up to 16 players. One or two pieces	6 mins
IN17 £10.00 DUO/TRIO FOR ANY INSTRUMENTS – Year 11 and under One or two pieces	5 mins
IN18 £11.00 ENSEMBLE - Year 11 and under Up to 16 players. One or two pieces	8 mins
IN19 £10.00 DUO/TRIO FOR ANY INSTRUMENTS - Open One or two pieces	8 mins
IN20 £11.00 ENSEMBLE - Year 13 and under Up to 16 players. One or two pieces	10 mins
IN21 £14.00 JAZZ/ROCK/SWING/DANCE BAND - Year 13 and under Up to 20 players. One or two pieces	10 mins

KEYBOARD

**WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH AND THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2026
THE GUILDHALL, BATH, BA1 5AW**

1. The timings of classes will depend on the number of entries, but it is intended that all beginner and junior classes will take place on the Wednesday. Similar classes with few entrants may be combined: classes with many entrants may be split.
2. The maximum number of classes competitors may enter from the solo instrumental and solo piano classes combined is 5.
3. Pianists may not enter more than one of each group of classes differenced only by age limit or grade; eg not more than one of classes P1 to P8; not more than one of classes P9 to P11; etc
4. Pianists are reminded that age limits refer to age on the 31st August, 2025.
5. THE PIANO SHOP, BATH SALVER. This trophy and a prize of £100 is awarded to the pianist aged 18 or under who gains highest marks in the Piano Recital class
6. In duet and trio classes entrants may play more than once in the same class as long as it is with different partners and playing different pieces.
7. In the duet classes P24 and P25 where 'student and teacher' is permitted there is no restriction on the number of times a teacher may play with different pupils.

PIANO SOLO CLASSES**Class Fee**

- P1** £6.50 **BEGINNER'S PIANO SOLO**
A non-competitive class aimed at providing early performing experience for all players pre-Grade 1 standard. This session will begin with a group approach to introduce the entrants to aspects of the performing experience. All players will then have the opportunity to perform their chosen piece to the audience and for this they will receive a simple written appraisal from the Adjudicator. There is no need to nominate the piece to be played on the entry form; it can be selected nearer the time of the Festival but do remember to bring a copy for the Adjudicator. Everyone will receive a certificate of performance at the end of the session.
- P2** £7.50 **PIANO SOLO (Grade 1)**
Own choice of piece at Grade 1 standard
- P3** £7.50 **PIANO SOLO (Grade 2)**
Own choice of piece at Grade 2 standard
- P4** £7.50 **PIANO SOLO (Grade 3)**
Own choice of piece at Grade 3 standard

PIANO SOLO CLASSES - continued

Class Fee

- P5** £9.00 PIANO SOLO (Grade 4)
Own choice of piece at Grade 4 standard
- P6** £9.00 PIANO SOLO (Grade 5)
Own choice of piece at Grade 5 standard
- P7** £10.00 PIANO SOLO (Grade 6)
Own choice of piece at Grade 6 standard
- P8** £10.00 PIANO SOLO (Grade 7)
Own choice of piece at Grade 7 standard

Class Fee

- | | Time limit |
|---|-------------------|
| P9 £10.00 PIANO REPERTOIRE (11 and under)
Two own choice contrasting pieces | 7 mins |
| P10 £11.00 PIANO REPERTOIRE (13 and under)
Two or three own choice contrasting pieces | 8 mins |
| P11 £12.50 PIANO REPERTOIRE (15 and under)
Three own choice contrasting pieces | 10 mins |
| P12 £7.50 ENJOYING JAZZ (11 and under)
Own choice of piece: any recognized jazz or light style.
Improvisation optional | 3 mins |
| P13 £10.00 ENJOYING JAZZ (open)
Own choice of piece: any recognized jazz or light style.
Improvisation optional | 7 mins |
| P14 £9.50 BAROQUE PIANO SOLO
Own choice of piece from the Baroque era | 6 mins |
| P15 £9.50 CLASSICAL PIANO SOLO
Own choice of piece from the Classical period
(including Beethoven) | 6 mins |
| P16 £9.50 ROMANTIC PIANO SOLO
Own choice of piece from the 19th century
(excluding Beethoven) | 6 mins |
| P17 £9.50 POST 1900 PIANO SOLO
Own Choice of piece | 6 mins |
| P18 £9.50 PIANO SOLO (Age 25 and over)
Own choice. Piano teachers welcome | 6 mins |
| P19 £17.50 PIANO RECITAL
A 20-minute programme, with at least one piece from memory.
Credit will be given for content as well as performance | 20 mins |

PIANO DUETS AND TRIOS

Class Fee		Time limit
P20	£6.50 BEGINNERS' PIANO DUET A non-competitive class aimed at providing early performing experience for all players pre-Grade 1 standard	
P21	£8.50 PIANO DUET/TRIO - PRELIMINARY Own Choice of piece at Grade 1 standard	3 mins
P22	£8.50 PIANO DUET/TRIO - ELEMENTARY Own Choice of piece at Grade 2 standard	3 mins
P23	£10.00 PIANO DUET/TRIO - TRANSITIONAL Own Choice of piece at Grade 3-4 standard	5 mins
P24	£10.00 PIANO DUET/TRIO - INTERMEDIATE Own Choice of piece at Grade 5-6 standard	5 mins
P25	£12.50 PIANO DUET/TRIO - ADVANCED Own Choice of piece at Grade 7 and above standard	7 mins
P26	£8.50 PIANO DUET (Open) (Grade 4 and below) Own Choice of piece - Student and Teacher permitted	3 mins
P27	£10.00 PIANO DUET (Open) (Grade 5 and above) Own Choice of piece - Student and Teacher permitted	5 mins

SCHOOLS CHORAL DAY**FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026****WIDCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH, PULTENEY ROAD, BATH BA2 4JR**

- 1 The fee for each class is £15.00.
- 2 The time limit for each performance is 7 minutes.
- 3 Choirs may not enter more than one free choice class
- 4 Maximum 40 voices unless otherwise stated

CHOIRS - YEAR 6 AND UNDER

- C1 LA/ACADEMY SCHOOLS CLASS/SCHOOL MUSIC PRESENTATION**
A singing-based item which could include some limited speech, with or without instrumental accompaniment. The pupils' own contributions to the arrangements are welcome.
Please include within the time limit a spoken introduction about your presentation.
Copyright regulations may apply here (see Music Rules).
- C2 FREE CHOICE**
Two contrasting items, at least one in two or more parts
- C3 ROUNDABOUT**
Two rounds of contrasting mood. No adult accompaniment but instrumental accompaniment by pupils allowed

CHOIRS - YEAR 9 AND UNDER

- C4 FREE CHOICE**
Two contrasting items, in two or more parts
- C5 SACRED AND SECULAR**
One setting of sacred words and one popular/show song/traditional song, both items in two or more parts. **Mrs Erica Jones has donated a prize of £100 to the winning choir in this class.**

CHOIRS - YEAR 13 AND UNDER

- C6 UNACCOMPANIED VOICES (max 25 voices)**
Two contrasting items e.g. madrigal, folksong, three or more parts
- C7 POPULAR OR SHOW SONG**
Two contrasting items in three or more parts
- C8 FREE CHOICE**
Two contrasting items in three or more parts – not popular or show song

ALL (Open)

- C9 NON-COMPETITIVE**
A class for all ages where anything goes!

ADULTS CHORAL DAY

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2026

ST SWITHIN'S CHURCH, THE PARAGON, BATH BA1 5LY

1. The Fee for each class is £25.00.
2. The Time Limit for each performance is 8 minutes
3. Maximum 50 voices in any choir (except C11 where the number is stated)
4. Classes will not necessarily be in the order given in the syllabus

C10 COMMUNITY CHOIRS

Non-competitive class with adjudication comments. Any combination of voices.
Two contrasting pieces.

C11 VOCAL ENSEMBLE (max. 16 voices)

Two items of own choice, accompanied or unaccompanied in three or more parts.
Conductor may sing with the choir.

C12 FEMALE VOICE CHOIRS

Two contrasting items in three or more parts

C13 MALE VOICE CHOIRS

Two contrasting items in three or more parts

C14 MIXED VOICE CHOIRS

Two contrasting items in three or more parts

C15 SHOW SONG CLASS

Two items of own choice in three or more parts

C16 SACRED MUSIC

Two contrasting items in three or more parts, one item may be Gospel music

C17 POPULAR /FOLK SONG

Two contrasting arrangements in three or more parts

MUSIC RULES

1 DEFINITIONS

- a. OPEN CLASSES. Classes designated 'open' are for all ages of competitor, but they must be amateurs. Please see General Rule on Status in the syllabus which clarifies this.
- b. LEVELS. Where indicated, in Instrumental and piano classes, Elementary is of Grade 1-2 standard; Transitional: Grades 3-4; Intermediate: Grades 5-6; Advanced: Grade 7 & above (any examining board).

2. COPYRIGHT

- a. The use of photo or other facsimile copies of printed music without the publisher's permission is forbidden as contrary to law. However, when a work is part of a volume and not published separately, a copy may be made for the adjudicator and the official accompanist, provided that the competitor has already purchased a copy and the photocopy is retained and then destroyed by the festival.
- b. No arrangement of music still under copyright is permitted, unless with written consent from the publisher.
- c. Songs from the Shows. All performances using music from shows in current production are subject to copyright law but may be sung as a concert item without the need for copyright permission.

3. CHOICE OF MUSIC

- a. Your choice of music to be performed should be specified on the entry form with all particulars (title, composer, publisher and duration).
- b. Competitors may not offer the same item in different classes.
- c. An original copy of music to be performed must be provided on the day for the Adjudicator and also a pdf version in advance for an Official Accompanist, if required. This music must be sent to the relevant entry secretary by Monday 9th February 2026.

4. CHOIRS, ORCHESTRAS ETC

Only amateur musicians (as defined in general rule 1) are eligible to take part in choirs, bands and orchestras etc other than as conductors or accompanists, or as permitted by the class description. Please refer to the General Rule 1 on Status on p 7.

5. TIME LIMITS

Time limits, where applicable, are clearly stated in the syllabus. Where a performance exceeds the allocated time limit, one mark is deducted for each period of 30 seconds after the initial 15 seconds.

6. RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRIES

- a. Competitors may not enter more than 5 classes in the Vocal section and no more than 5 classes in Instrumental and Keyboard sections combined
- b. Where similar classes are designated Elementary, Transitional, Intermediate and Advanced, no one may enter more than one such level unless offering different instruments.
- c. In duet and trio classes entrants may enter more than once in the same class as long as it is with different partners and performing different pieces.

MUSIC RULES

7. AWARDS

Trophies are awarded at the adjudicator's discretion, but generally only for categories Honours and above. Only certain classes have trophy awards, the majority of awards now being certificates or badges.

8. CHOICE OF MUSIC

a. Official Accompanists are available for Vocal and Instrumental classes by advance request to the relevant Entry Secretary and on receipt of payment. Any request for an official accompanist should be made at the time of entry and no later than two weeks before the start of Music week to be considered.

It is possible to arrange for a rehearsal with this accompanist at a fee to be negotiated privately.

b. Accompanist's fees, payable at the time of entry: £7.00 or £10.00 for Young Adult Vocal Recital

c. Please assist the Official Accompanist as follows:

Label music clearly with the competitor's name and class. Indicate speed required by giving a metronome mark.

A copy of the music preferably a paid for download should be emailed in pdf format (NOT a jpeg). If this is a photocopy the official copy should be available for the accompanist on the day of the class

Competitors should provide their own accompanist (who is not adjudicated) for Repertoire, Advanced and Concerto classes in the Instrumental section

9. FORMAT OF CLASSES

The Music Committee reserves the right to cancel, combine or split classes according to the number of entries (very small classes may be cancelled or combined; very large classes may be split). The committee may also make any alterations to the rules or entry criteria as are deemed necessary.

10. ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

All personal electrical equipment that uses a mains socket, eg amp, CD player, must be pre-tested and approved safe (PAT tested) and marked to this effect. The Portable Appliance Test can be routinely carried out by a local electrician.

Failure to comply with the Music Rules may result in a performance being adjudicated but not placed