



SYLLABUS 2026

20th & 21st March 2026

Brass	Cabaret	Chamber	Choral	Classical Guitar	Folk
Ensembles	Musical Theatre	Opera	Orchestras		
Percussion	Piano	Pop	Rap	Rock Bands	
Singer-Songwriter	Strings	Vocal			
Woodwind					

Birkenhead High School Academy,
86 Devonshire Place,
Prenton, Wirral,
CH43 1TY
wirralfestival.com
@wirralmusicfestival



Music Classes Syllabus

Rules

Our Festival Objectives:

1. To encourage the study of music in Wirral.
2. To increase the interest of the public in these arts
3. To assist competitors to recognise their strong and weak points by comparing their performance with those of others.

PLEASE READ GENERAL AND SECTIONAL RULES BEFORE COMPLETING ENTRY FORMS

The Music Festival is open to amateurs only. For this purpose, AMATEUR is defined by the British and International Federation of Festivals as follows:

'Any person whose principal means of livelihood is not obtained from performing or teaching work in music, speech, elocution or drama; even if he or she from time to time accepts a fee, stipend or honorarium for dramatic or musical services rendered'.

1. Every entrant under the age of 18 years will be considered amateur. This rule does not apply to conductors.

2. Entries will now be accepted ONLINE ONLY by January 31st. If there any difficulties experienced, please contact us at wirralfestival@protonmail.com.

THE CLOSING DATE WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.

3. Entry fees cannot be refunded except in accordance with Rule 12.

4. In a class with a specific age requirement performers must be of the age specified on the date of the festival.

5. The Committee reserves the right to appoint additional adjudicators; to limit the number of entrants in any one class, or divide classes. The Committee shall make alterations or regulations as shall be deemed necessary in the conduct of the festival.

6. Requests for a class to be held on a particular day will be considered, but cannot be guaranteed. No refund will be payable.

7. Notification that the timetable is on the website will be sent to all competitors or teachers by email or post at least 3 weeks before the festival.

8. We adhere strictly to given time limits and we will apply penalties to performers who overrun these limits. The scale of penalties will be as follows:-

- a) 15 seconds- 1 mark
 - b) 30 seconds- 2 marks
 - c) 45 seconds- 3 marks
- Etc.

The Federation has introduced a new marking scheme in 2024 with a wider range of marks to reflect performance.

Marking Bands:

65-69 Marks - Developing

70-74 Marks - Progressing

75-79 Marks - Merit

80-84 Marks - Commended

85-89 Marks - Honours

90-94 Marks - Outstanding
95+ Marks - Exceptional

THE ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION WILL BE FINAL.

9. We comply with the scale of marks as recommended by The British and International Federation of Festivals (BIFF) for Music. To be awarded a trophy the performer/performers must gain at least 85 marks. Performers gaining the three highest marks in the class will be awarded a certificate. Prizes will be withheld in whole or in part if in the opinion of the Adjudicator sufficient merit is not shown.

10. No person other than the festival officials may speak to the adjudicator.

11. All communication must be through the officials.

12. The Committee reserves the right, should circumstances arise which in their opinion render it impracticable to hold the Festival, to cancel all arrangements. In this case entrance fees will be returned.

13. The Festival Committee may from time to time make, repeal and amend these rules as they shall think expedient for the management of the Festival. The decision of the Committee in all matters arising out of, or not specially provided for in, these Regulations is final.

14. The Festival is bound by copyright law and cannot allow any photography or recordings, which are absolutely forbidden during the performances or Adjudication.

15. NO SMOKING or ALCOHOL on School premises. With the exception of bottled water, no eating or drinking is allowed in the competition rooms, practice rooms or in the classroom waiting areas upstairs.

16. Neither the Festival nor the School authorities accept any responsibility for property lost, stolen or damaged during the Festival.

17. ALL TROPHIES awarded at the Festival will be held by the winner and must be returned by 31st January of the following year to the Trophy Secretaries:-

Keith & Jean Owens, 10 Wayville Close, Liverpool, L18 7LB. (0151 724 5563)

Failure to do so may result in a competitor being barred from entry into the subsequent year's Festival. Trophies must be returned in good condition, the cost of repair will be charged.

18. If you have entered an "Own Choice" class and are using the official festival accompanist for your performance, sheet music must be sent BY POST NOT EMAIL BY THE CLOSING DATE to the Music Secretary:-

Jackie Martindale, 33 Millfield Close, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 2QN.

Warning: Prosecution may be taken against any competitor using unauthorised photocopies of copyright material.

19. All "Own Choice" pieces MUST be chosen by the deadline AND submitted with your entry. Any entrant wishing to make further changes to their choices after the closing date is at the accompanist's discretion.

Adjudicators

Daniel Chandler

MA

After graduating from the Royal College of Music, Daniel performed as a professional flautist in orchestras, chamber ensembles and as a soloist. Daniel also has a teaching degree from Edge Hill University and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Warwick.

For a number of years Daniel was Assistant Director of Music at Merchant Taylors' School in Crosby and then Director of Music at AKS Lytham. He has conducted choral societies, choirs and numerous other groups in performances across the UK and further afield. This has included directing concerts in Westminster Abbey, Salzburg Cathedral, the United Nations and in St. Paul's Chapel, New York.

Daniel is currently Assistant Head of Bolton Music Service which is the lead partner of the Greater Manchester Music Hub. He works with all sectors of the local community to increase access to quality music making and to support music education across schools and colleges. Daniel is a Professional Mentor for PGCE students studying at the RNCM and Manchester Metropolitan University. He is also a Trustee of Trust Music which is a charity that generates funds to support music education and engagement for young people; particularly those who are experiencing significant barriers to accessing musical opportunities.

Daniel still manages to find time to continue performing, deliver workshops and adjudicate as a member of the British and International Federation of Festivals.

Joanne Dennis

Joanne trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama specialising in classical vocal studies and later went on to train in popular vocals. Joanne performed with the BBC National Symphony Orchestra performing with internationally acclaimed conductors and orchestras across the UK.

Joanne has appeared in many roles including Oliver (Nancy), West side story (Maria), 42nd Street (Chorus Girl), La Vie Parisienne (Gabrielle), Pirates of Penzance (Edith), The Marriage of Figaro (Suzanna), Iolanthe (Phyllis) and Seven (Lead Soloist).

Joanne's performances have been broadcast on BBC Three Radio and S4C Television. Joanne has performed in venues across the UK including Royal Albert hall, Liverpool Empire Theatre, St David's Concert Hall and London's West End.

Joanne performed with Sense of Sound Singers and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ben Foster in a BBC Worldwide showcase to celebrate one of BBC's most successful and long running global franchises 'Doctor Who'. This was held at the Echo Arena Liverpool.

In 2011 Joanne's pop vocal group performed with Sir Paul McCartney on his 'On The Run' tour with performances at the M.E.N and ECHO Arenas. In 2014 Joanne performed in the BBC showcase in the Echo Arena which was hosted by Graham Norton.

Joanne performed for the Liverpool International Music Festival (LIMF) with Sense of Sound Singers and Beatboxers led by Grammy award nominated Beatbox Master, Shlomo at the Everyman theatre Liverpool.

Joanne had the pleasure of working as a soloist for Paco Peña's UK tour of Requiem for the Earth.

Performing at and Manchester Bridgewater Concert hall and Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Joanne works and vocal coach and singing teacher and loves to encourage young performers to perform as much as they can to an audience.

James Kirby

James appears as recitalist and concerto soloist throughout the UK and Europe. Highlights include performances at London's Wigmore Hall, Edinburgh and Aldeburgh Festivals, St George's, Bristol, and Dora Stoutzker Hall, Cardiff. He is increasingly in demand in the Far East, where recent appearances include concerts in China, Singapore and Malaysia.

James studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London with Hamish Milne and the Moscow Conservatoire with Tatiana Nikolaeva and Eliso Virsaladze. Following his student years in Moscow he undertook regular solo and chamber music tours of the former Soviet Union, making notable appearances at the Sakharov Festival in Nizhny Novgorod, the Omsk Festival and the Viktor Merzhanov Festival in Tambov. He was a semi-finalist in the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and won First Prize in the Citta di Marsala Piano Competition in Sicily.

He has appeared as concerto soloist with the English, Scottish and Belarusian Chamber Orchestras, the Moscow, Kazakh, Astana and Penang Symphony Orchestras, the Arad and Oradea Philharmonic Orchestras (Romania), in venues including the Royal Albert Hall and Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in London, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire and Astana Opera House. He has performed both Brahms Concertos in Russia and Romania.

James is a member of the Barbican Piano Trio, performing at Wigmore Hall, in major UK festivals and concert series, and throughout Europe and the USA. Highlights include Carnegie Recital Hall and many cycles of Beethoven's complete Piano Trios including the Master Concert Series at Wigmore Hall. The Trio's repertoire consists of over seventy works.

He enjoyed a long collaboration with the celebrated Russian violinist Lydia Mordkovich and has worked with Martyn Brabbins, the Vanbrugh Quartet, BBC Singers, Dame Sarah Connolly and the pianist David Willison.

James is a dedicated teacher and holds posts at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Royal Holloway, University of London, and Eton College. He is a regular jury member of international piano competitions and much in demand for masterclasses and as an adjudicator.

Robert Marsh

MA(Oxon) FRSA FRCO FISM ARCM

Formerly a Junior Exhibitioner at the Royal Manchester College of Music and the Royal Northern College of Music, studying the organ with Donald Mearns and Eric Chadwick, Robert Marsh won an Organ Scholarship to Keble College, Oxford, where he read for an Honours Degree in Music. At Oxford, he directed the music, broadcast on BBC Radio celebrating the centenary of the opening of Keble College Chapel.

Aged eighteen, he gave his first BBC broadcast as an organist, two years later becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. After a period of postgraduate study at Jesus College, Cambridge, he made his professional début in 1978 at Winchester Cathedral, playing organ continuo in a performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion with the Choir of Winchester Cathedral directed by Martin Neary, noteworthy for being the first-ever complete British account of the work to use Baroque pitch and period instruments. He has held a number of school, university, church and cathedral appointments. As Director of Music at Reigate Grammar School, he was responsible for launching a highly successful series of musical theatre productions, featuring among other students

David Walliams and Keir Starmer.

As a concert organist - appearing in venues from Westminster Abbey and York Minster to the Chapel of the West Point Military Academy in New York - he has made several recordings, including contributing to Priory's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis series. He has played the organ live on BBC Radio Three on several occasions, and has been both Organist and Musical Director for the Daily Service on BBC Radio Four. A number of composers have written pieces specially for him. As an award winning conductor, associated particularly with the Leith Hill, Northern Cathedrals and Yorkshire Three Choirs Festivals, he has worked with the Northern Philharmonia and Manchester Camerata. He has been particularly associated with the music of J.S. Bach and Benjamin Britten, conducting notable performances of the B Minor Mass, St John Passion, The Golden Vanity, A Ceremony of Carols, Saint Nicolas and Noye's Fludde.

As a composer, he has contributed to both New English Praise and the Revised English Hymnal. Robert has been an 'A' Level Music Examiner for many years, and in 2008 was elected to serve a term of office as Warden of the Incorporated Society of Musicians Music in Education Section. He is Senior Examiner at the London College of Music (University of West London), working in Turkey, Malta, Italy, India, Greece, Vietnam, China, Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, Kenya, Malaysia and Singapore, as well as in all parts of the United Kingdom. He was involved in the Northern Ireland integrated schools programme, and has received awards in India and Vietnam for his work in music education. He is contributing to the Government's Curriculum and Assessment Review and serves as a school governor, drawing on his experience as Lead Practitioner in Music for Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council. He is an Adjudicator Member of the British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech.

Vocal Solo

Piano accompaniment only in all vocal classes except where otherwise stated.

The content of the songs in classes 28-32 must be appropriate to the age of the performer.
The Official Accompanist will not be available for classes 28-32.

BACKING TRACKS FOR CLASSES 28-32 MUST BE SENT ONE MONTH BEFORE THE FESTIVAL TO:-

MR G. HODSON, 3 FIRSHILL, VILLAGE ROAD, CH48 7HP OR ggaggia@icloud.com

Class	Age	Time	Fee
001 Age 7 years and under - Set Piece Set Piece "The Smuggler Men" from Singing Prep Test (Publisher - ABRSM)	7 and under	Up to 1 min	£8.75
002 Age 7 years and under - Own Choice Any song excluding pop, folk song, Disney song, film song, musical theatre or sacred song. Not exceeding 2 minutes.	7 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.75
003 Age 11 years and under - Set Piece Set Piece "The Hippopotamus" by M. Flanders & D. Swan, from Grade 2 Songs Plus (Publisher - ABRSM)	11 and under	Up to 1.5 mins	£8.75
004 Age 11 years and under - Own Choice Any song excluding pop, folk song, Disney song, film song, musical theatre or sacred song. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.75
005 Age 15 years and under - Set Piece Set Piece "A Gaelic Blessing" by John Rutter, from Grade 5 Songs Plus (Publisher - ABRSM)	15 and under	Up to 1.45 mins	£9.75
006 Age 15 years and under - Own Choice Any song excluding pop, folk song, Disney song, film song, musical theatre or sacred song. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	15 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.75
007 Age 18 years and under - Set Piece Set Piece "The Little Road to Bethlehem" by Michael Head, any published key (Publisher - Boosey & Hawkes)	18 and under	Up to 2 mins	£9.75
008 Age 18 years and under - Own Choice Any song excluding pop, folk song, Disney song, film song, musical theatre or sacred song. Not exceeding 4 minutes.	18 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
009 Age 12 years and under - Film & Disney Songs Any Film or Disney song. Not exceeding 3 minutes. No backing track.	12 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.75
010 Age 15 years and under - Film & Disney Songs Any Film or Disney song. Not exceeding 3 minutes. No backing track.	15 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.75
011 Age 18 years and under - Film & Disney Songs Any Film or Disney song. Not exceeding 4 minutes. No backing track.	18 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.75
012 Age 11 years and under - Songs from the Shows Own Choice of any musical comedy, light opera, or modern musical but not a film or Disney song. No backing track or costumes permitted. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.75

Class	Age	Time	Fee
013 Age 12 & 13 Years - Songs from the Shows Own Choice of any musical comedy, light opera, or modern musical but not a film or Disney song. No backing track or costumes permitted. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	Age 12 and 13	Up to 3 mins	£9.75
014 Age 14 & 15 Years - Songs from the Shows Own Choice of any musical comedy, light opera, or modern musical but not a film or Disney song. No backing track or costumes permitted. Not exceeding 4 minutes.	Age 14 and 15	Up to 4 mins	£9.75
015 Age 18 Years and under - Songs from the Shows Own Choice of any musical comedy, light opera, or modern musical but not a film or Disney song. No backing track or costumes permitted. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	18 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
016 Open - Sacred Solo Own Choice excluding Oratorio. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
017 Open - Lieder Solo Own Choice of any German lied by Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Clara Schumann, Robert Schumann, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Wolf, Mahler, Wagner or Richard Strauss. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
018 Open - Oratorio Solo Own Choice. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
019 Open - Songs from the Shows Own Choice any musical comedy, light opera or modern musical. No backing track or costumes permitted. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
020 Open - Opera Own Choice. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
021 Open - British Composer Own Choice. Any art song by a British composer, excluding any set piece for the year's Festival. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
022 Open - Old Time Music Hall Own Choice. Any Victorian or Edwardian light song or ballad, or any song from a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. No backing track or costumes permitted. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
023 Open - Humorous Song Own Choice. Any solo song containing humour. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
024 Open - Vocal Solo Own Choice. This class is for performers who have not previously won a class for singing at this Festival. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
025 Open - Folk Song Own Choice any of any traditional folk song unaccompanied. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
026 Open - Vocal Recital A programme of 3 own choice pieces (excluding any performed in other classes in the Festival). The pieces should be as varied as possible in period and style. Not exceeding 12 minutes.	Any	Up to 12 mins	£18.00
027 Vocal Solo - 60 years and over Own Choice of one piece. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75

Class	Age	Time	Fee
028 Age 11 years and under - Popular Vocal Own Choice of one piece. Not exceeding 3 minutes. Backing tracks permitted.	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.75
029 Age 15 years and under - Popular Vocal Own Choice of one piece. Backing tracks permitted. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	15 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.75
030 Age 18 years and under - Popular Vocal Own Choice of one piece. Backing tracks permitted. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	18 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.75
031 Age 18 and under - Cabaret Own Choice of one piece. Costumes, small hand props and backing tracks are permitted. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	18 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
032 Open - Singer/Songwriter Own Choice of self written piece. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
033 Open - Enjoy Music Making! (Non Competitive) Not exceeding 5 minutes. Own choice piece either sung or played on any instrument. For people with hidden disabilities such as Autistic Spectrum Condition, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or suffering from a mental health illness.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75

Choral Classes

Choir leaders are reminded that a copy of the music must be given to the adjudicator before the performance. Where backing tracks are allowed, performers should bring their own playback equipment.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
036 Open - Vocal Duet Own Choice of one piece. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75 per duo
037 Open - Gilbert and Sullivan Ensemble Class Own Choice. Any appropriate excerpt from a G and S opera. Duet or ensemble up to five singers. Not exceeding 5 minutes. Group of 2 to 5 people	Any	Up to 5 mins	£5.50 per person
038 Open - Vocal Ensemble Maximum 8 voices. Own Choice of one piece. Any combination of voices, including trios, quartets and Barber-shop. Not exceeding 5 minutes. Group of 2 to 8 people	Any	Up to 5 mins	£5.50 per person
039 Age 7 years and under - Infant Choir Own choice of two pieces. Backing track or piano accompaniment. Not exceeding 5 minutes. If bringing your own backing track, be aware you must bring your own playback system. Group of a minimum of 8 people	7 and under	Up to 5 mins	£25.00 per group
040 Age 11 years and under - Children's Choir Own choice of two pieces. Backing track or piano accompaniment. Not exceeding 10 minutes. If bringing your own backing track, be aware you must bring your own playback system. Group of a minimum of 8 people	11 and under	Up to 10 mins	£25.00 per group
041 Age 15 years and under - Children's Choir **Non Competitive Class. Entrants will be given a complete adjudication.** Own choice of two contrasting pieces. Backing tracks permitted. Accompaniment by up to 6 instruments permitted. Not exceeding 10 minutes. If bringing your own backing track, be aware you must bring your own playback system. Group of a minimum of 8 people	15 and under	Up to 10 mins	£25.00 per group

Class	Age	Time	Fee
<p>042 Age 19 years and under - Youth Choir</p> <p>Own choice of two contrasting part songs. Backing tracks permitted. Accompaniment by up to 6 instruments permitted. Not exceeding 10 minutes.</p> <p>If bringing your own backing track, be aware you must bring your own playback system.</p> <p>Group of a minimum of 8 people</p>	19 and under	Up to 10 mins	£25.00 per group
<p>043 Age 60 years and over - Over 60s Choirs</p> <p>Own choice of two contrasting part songs. Backing tracks not permitted. Not exceeding 10 minutes.</p> <p>Group of a minimum of 8 people</p>	Any	Up to 10 mins	£25.00 per group
<p>044 Open - Choral Groups</p> <p>Maximum 25 voices.</p> <p>Own choice of two contrasting part songs. Backing tracks not permitted. Not exceeding 10 minutes.</p> <p>Group of 8 to 25 people</p>	Any	Up to 10 mins	£25.00 per group
<p>045 Age 18 years and under - Choral Competition</p> <p>Minimum 8 voices.</p> <p>Choirs are invited to present a programme of not more than 15 minutes duration. The programme should be as varied as possible in period and in style.</p> <p>Backing tracks permitted. If bringing your own backing track, be aware you must bring your own playback system.</p> <p>Group of a minimum of 8 people</p>	18 and under	Up to 15 mins	£25.00 per group
<p>046 Open Choral Competition (Adult)</p> <p>Minimum 16 voices.</p> <p>Open to mixed voices, ladies voice choirs and male voice choirs. Choirs are invited to present a programme of not more than 15 minutes duration. Backing tracks not permitted.</p> <p>Group of a minimum of 16 people</p>	18 and over	Up to 15 mins	£25.00 per group
<p>047 Age 11 years and under - Hymn Singing</p> <p>2 traditional or modern hymns as found in a standard hymn book. Accompaniment by up to 6 instruments permitted. Not exceeding 10 minutes.</p> <p>Group of a minimum of 8 people</p>	11 and under	Up to 10 mins	£25.00 per group

Piano Classes

Pianists are reminded that for all own choice pieces a copy of the music **MUST** be given to the Adjudicator before the performance.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
050 Age 8 years and under - Piano Solo Set Piece "Sprinkling Star Dust" from Piano Star 2 (Publisher - ABRSM)	8 and under	Up to 1 min	£8.75
051 Age 8 years and under - Piano Solo: Own Choice Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	8 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.75
052 Age 9 years and under - Piano Solo: Own Choice Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	9 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.75
053 Age 10 years and under - Piano Solo Set Piece "Vampire Blues" from Spooky Piano Time (Publisher - Oxford UP)	10 and under	Up to 1 min	£8.75
054 Age 10 years and under - Piano Solo: Own Choice Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	10 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.75
055 Age 11 years and under - Piano Solo: Own Choice Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.75
056 Age 12 years and under - Piano Solo Set Piece "Angloise" from Notebook for Wolfgang, from Notenbuch fur Wolfgang (Publisher - Schott) *OR* The Young Pianist's Repertoire Book 1 (Publisher - Faber)	12 and under	Up to 1 min	£9.75
057 Age 12 years and under - Piano Solo: Own Choice Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	12 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.75
058 Age 14 years and under - Piano Solo Set Piece "Study in E minor" by Stephen Heller, from 20 Miscellaneous Studies for Piano (Publisher - ABRSM)	14 and under	Up to 1.75 mins	£9.75
059 Age 14 years and under - Piano Solo: Own Choice Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
060 Age 16 years and under - Piano Solo Set Piece Fantasia No. 1 in D (ONLY Mvmt. 1: Allegro) by G. P. Telemann, from Telemann Fantasias: First Dozen (Publisher - ABRSM)	16 and under	Up to 1.25 mins	£9.75
061 Age 16 years and under - Piano Solo: Own Choice Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	16 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
062 Age 17 years and under - Solo Piano Recital A programme of at least two own choice pieces (excluding any performed in other classes). The pieces should be as varied as possible in period and style. Not to exceed 15 minutes in total.	17 and under	Up to 15 mins	£9.75
063 Piano Solo - Grade 1 Own choice of one piece taken from any current British examination syllabus. PLEASE NOTE: Performers must enter the grade that they have just taken or are preparing to take and *must not* enter a category below their current grade. As such, only one graded piano class may be entered.	Any		£8.75

Class	Age	Time	Fee
<p>064 Piano Solo - Grade 2</p> <p>Own choice of one piece taken from any current British examination syllabus.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Performers must enter the grade that they have just taken or are preparing to take and *must not* enter a category below their current grade. As such, only one graded piano class may be entered.</p>	Any		£8.75
<p>065 Piano Solo - Grade 3</p> <p>Own choice of one piece taken from any current British examination syllabus.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Performers must enter the grade that they have just taken or are preparing to take and *must not* enter a category below their current grade. As such, only one graded piano class may be entered.</p>	Any		£8.75
<p>066 Piano Solo - Grade 4</p> <p>Own choice of one piece taken from any current British examination syllabus.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Performers must enter the grade that they have just taken or are preparing to take and *must not* enter a category below their current grade. As such, only one graded piano class may be entered.</p>	Any		£8.75
<p>067 Piano Solo - Grade 5</p> <p>Own choice of one piece taken from any current British examination syllabus.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Performers must enter the grade that they have just taken or are preparing to take and *must not* enter a category below their current grade. As such, only one graded piano class may be entered.</p>	Any		£8.75
<p>068 Piano Solo - Bach</p> <p>Own choice of any movement from an original keyboard work by J S Bach. Not exceeding 8 minutes.</p>	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.50
<p>069 Piano Solo - Classical Period</p> <p>Own choice of any movement from an original keyboard work by Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven. Not exceeding 8 minutes.</p>	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.50
<p>070 Piano Solo - Romantic Period</p> <p>Own choice of any original piano piece by Schubert, Clara and Robert Schumann, Chopin, Liszt, Mendelssohn or Brahms. Not exceeding 8 minutes.</p>	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.50
<p>071 Piano Solo - 20th/21st Century</p> <p>Own choice of any original piano piece from the 20th or 21st centuries. Not exceeding 8 minutes.</p>	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.50
<p>072 Piano Solo - Recital</p> <p>A programme of at least two own choice pieces (excluding any performed in other classes). Pieces to be as varied as possible in period and style. Not exceeding 15 minutes in total.</p>	Any	Up to 15 mins	£18.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
073 Age 11 Years and under - Piano Duet Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.75 per duo
074 Age 16 Years and under - Piano Duet Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	16 and under	Up to 5 mins	£8.75 per duo
075 Open - Piano Duet Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£8.75 per duo
076 Age 16 Years and under - Piano Trio Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	16 and under	Up to 5 mins	£10.50 per trio
077 Open - Piano Trio Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£10.50 per trio
078 Open - Piano - Own Choice For people with vision and/or sensory impairment. Own choice of one piano piece. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£8.75

Instrumental Solo Classes

Instrumentalists are reminded that for all own choice pieces, a copy of the music **MUST** be given to the Adjudicator before the performance.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
086 Open - Instrumental Novice Class For performers with less than a year's tuition. Own choice, any instrument. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.75
087 Age 10 years and under - Instrumental Solo Own choice of one piece. Open to players of string (including non-electric guitar and harp) woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Not exceeding 3 minutes.	10 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.75
088 Age 13 years and under - Instrumental Solo Own choice of one piece. Open to players of string (including non-electric guitar and harp) woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Not exceeding 5 minutes.	13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
089 Age 17 years and under - Instrumental Solo Own choice of one piece. Not exceeding 5 minutes. Open to players of string (including non-electric guitar and harp) woodwind, brass and percussion instruments.	17 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.75
090 Open - Instrumental Solo Own choice of one piece or two movements from the same work. Open to players of string (including non-electric guitar and harp) woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Not exceeding 7 minutes.	Any	Up to 7 mins	£9.75
091 **NEW** Open - Electric Guitar Solo NEW FOR 2026 Own choice of one piece of any piece for electric guitar, plug-in acoustic or bass guitar. Must not exceed 5 minutes. **All amplifiers, pedals, cables, backline and other necessary equipment must be provided by performers.**	Any	Up to 5 mins	£9.75

Instrumental Group Classes

Performers are reminded that the time limit must be strictly observed to avoid penalties.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
<p>095 Age 12 years and under - Instrumental Ensemble</p> <p>For larger groups of performers. Any combination of any number of instruments. Own choice of one or more pieces. Not exceeding 10 minutes.</p> <p>Group of any size</p>	11 and under	Up to 10 mins	£25.00 per group
<p>096 Age 12 to 18 years - Instrumental Ensemble</p> <p>For larger groups of performers. Any combination of any number of instruments. Own choice of one or more pieces. Not exceeding 10 minutes.</p> <p>Group of any size</p>	Between 12 and 18	Up to 10 mins	£25.00 per group
<p>097 Open - Instrumental Ensemble</p> <p>Any combination of unamplified instruments of not less than 3 instruments. Own choice of one or more pieces. Not exceeding 10 minutes.</p> <p>Group of any size</p>	Any	Up to 10 mins	£25.00 per group
<p>098 Age 12 years and under - Chamber Music Ensemble</p> <p>Either</p> <p>(a) Piano and one instrument, or</p> <p>(b) Two orchestral instruments.</p> <p>Both players will be assessed.</p> <p>Own choice of one or more pieces.</p>	12 and under	Up to 10 mins	£15.00 per duo
<p>099 Open - Chamber Music Ensemble</p> <p>Either</p> <p>(a) Piano and one instrument, or</p> <p>(b) Two orchestral instruments.</p> <p>Both players will be assessed.</p> <p>Own choice of one or more pieces. Not exceeding 10 minutes.</p>	Any	Up to 10 mins	£20.00 per duo
<p>100 Open - Band with Vocalists</p> <p>Any combination of instruments and vocalists, with no less than 3 instruments. Own choice of one or more pieces. Not exceeding 10 minutes.</p> <p>**Mic and PA will be provided, but all other equipment and backline must be provided by performers.**</p> <p>Group of 3 to 10 people</p>	Any	Up to 10 mins	£25.00 per group
<p>101 Age 11 years and under - School Orchestras/Bands</p> <p>One adult player allowed.</p> <p>Own choice of one or more pieces. Not exceeding 10 minutes.</p> <p>Group of any size</p>	11 and under	Up to 10 mins	£25.00 per group
<p>102 Age 18 years and under - School Orchestras/Bands</p> <p>Own choice of one or more pieces. Not exceeding 10 minutes.</p> <p>Group of any size</p>	18 and under	Up to 15 mins	£25.00 per group

Class	Age	Time	Fee
103 Age 11 years and under - Recorder Group Own choice of one or more pieces. Not exceeding 10 minutes. With or without accompaniment. Group of any size	11 and under	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group

Instrumental Ensemble

Instrumental Group Classes

Performers are reminded that the time limit must be strictly observed to avoid penalties.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
104 Instrumental Group - Open Open to any age with any combination of instruments. Enjoy performing music together! Group of any size	Any	Up to 15 mins	£25.00 per group

Correspondence and Thank You

Chair

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Treasurer

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General Secretary

Liz Macintosh | lizmacintosh@cooptel.net

Music Secretary

Jackie Martindale | martindalejackie@yahoo.co.uk

Trophy Secretary

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The committee tenders its sincere thanks to all those who assist with the running of the Festival including our sponsors, Birkenhead High School Academy and especially to competitors, parents and teachers, without whose support there would be no Festival.