

FESTIVAL RULES

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ALL TROPHIES MUST BE RETURNED CLEANED AND IN GOOD CONDITION, TO THE TROPHY SECRETARY NOT LATER THAN

1st March 2025 (see Rules 33-34)

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Thank you

WHO MAY ENTER?

1. The Festival is open to everyone, however,
 - Certain classes have age restrictions.
 - Professionals, as defined in rule 2, may only enter classes designated as “Open”. Amateur status cannot be held by someone who is, or who has been, paid to perform in the discipline in which they seek to enter the Festival.
 - The Committee reserves the right to refuse an entry without assigning a reason.
2. A professional is defined as a person whose principal means of livelihood is obtained by performing and/or teaching in the discipline involved. This rule does not apply to conductors.
3. The age of an entrant for Festival classes will be their age as at the entry closing date. Should there be any doubt about an entrant’s age in the junior classes the Committee reserves the right to see proof of age.
4. No one below the age of 18 may enter any adult class.
5. Entrants may perform once only in each class, except in family ensemble classes provided that a different part is taken.
6. Entrants in any family ensemble must have been bona fide members of that ensemble for two months prior to the date of performance. **Conductors may not sing with their choirs.**
7. When more than one item is performed by an ensemble, membership of that ensemble must be the same for each item.

HOW TO ENTER

8. Entry forms must be completed in full and sent with entry fees to the address indicated on the form, to arrive by 14th March 2025.
9. “Own Choice” pieces must be identified, and their running times given on the entry form. Entries will not be accepted if this is not done. Changes in “Own choice” pieces cannot be accepted after 6 weeks preceding the Festival.
10. Entry fees cannot be returned except for entries not accepted by the decision of the Committee, or as otherwise provided for in these Rules.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES

11. The closing date for entries is 14th March 2025. Entries will be treated on a first come, first served basis - if it is necessary to limit the number of entries then the Committee reserves the right to stop accepting entries.
 - **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

EXAM CLASSES

12. These are confined to current Associated Board or Trinity grade pieces. Competitors should provide the Adjudicator with a copy of the music.

OWN CHOICE PIECES

13. **COMPETITORS MUST PROVIDE THE ADJUDICATOR WITH THE MUSIC THEY WILL BE PERFORMING.** This can be a photocopy, see Rules 14 & 17. **Failure to provide the Adjudicator with a copy of the music you will be performing will result in disqualification.**

PHOTOCOPIED MUSIC

14. The Festival cannot legally allow anyone to play or perform from photocopied music & has no choice but to disqualify performers and accompanists who do so unless, before their class starts, they produce written evidence showing that the publisher's agreement has been sought and given. The only copies the Festival can legally allow are:
 - Copies for the Adjudicator's use which will be destroyed at the end of the class,
 - Copies for an awkward page turn which may otherwise hinder the performance.
 - Legal downloads

ORGANISATION

15. The Committee reserves the right to limit, cancel or subdivide any class or classes.
16. The Committee reserves the right without notice to engage additional adjudicators, to provide a substitute for any adjudicator unable to appear, or to transfer classes from one session to another.

ACCOMPANISTS

17. **An original printed copy of music must be available in the performance room.** Photocopies are acceptable providing an original is available in the performance room, with the entrant's name and class clearly written on the first page, together with any metronome marking, indications of interpretation and duration of the piece.

PERFORMANCE

18. Entrants are expected to perform in the order in which they are listed in the programme. Alterations will be made only at the discretion of the Committee.
19. Any entrant not present when called will be heard only at the discretion of the Adjudicator and may not be assigned a category or qualify for an award.
20. Performers who need to discuss anything with the Accompanist immediately before their performance should do so while the Adjudicator is completing the assessment of the previous performer, so as to be ready to start when called.
21. Entrants are expected to perform without prompting or guidance from the audience, unless by prior agreement with the Festival organisers and Adjudicator. Failure to observe this rule may lead to disqualification.
22. Entrants should not play repeats in exam pieces, except "da capo" repeats. In own choice pieces, repeats are optional, provided that the time limits specified are adhered to.
23. Where time limits are shown for a class, these must be strictly observed. The time of a performance will be from the first note/word played/sung/spoken to the last note/word played/sung/spoken (excluding tuning). A performance that is too long may be commented upon by the Adjudicator, but will not be assigned a category, nor be eligible for an award. In the case of a recital class, a performance should not be less than the minimum time limit.
24. **Photography, audio or video recording during performances or adjudication is not allowed by the Festival.**

ADJUDICATION

25. The Adjudicator's decision is final.
26. No one, except Committee Members or Stewards in the course of their duties, may discuss any

aspect of the Festival with an Adjudicator before, during, or after classes, except at the invitation of the Adjudicator.

27. Adjudications and certificates will be available from the designated table as soon as possible after each class (or class group in the case of joint adjudications).

MARKING SCHEME

28. This year the new British & International Federation of Festivals (BIFF) marking scheme will be used. The Adjudicator will assign one of the following categories to each performance entitled to an adjudication:

Marking Band	Mark	Description
Progressing	70 – 74	A performance showing development of technique and/or communication and commitment
Merit	75 – 79	A competent performance, showing some artistic awareness and/or technical ability
Commended	80 – 84	A convincing performance technically & artistically, with increasing stylistic & communication skills
Honours	85 – 89	An excellent performance, demonstrating fluent technical and artistic skills with emerging individuality
Outstanding	90 – 94	An impressive performance technically & artistically, displaying spontaneity & clear individuality
Exceptional	95 +	A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic individuality

TROPHIES

29. Not all classes will carry a trophy - allocation is at the discretion of the Committee.
30. Trophies or other awards will not normally be awarded unless a Commended, or above category is achieved. However, the awarding of a trophy or other award is solely at the discretion of the Adjudicator.
31. Trophy winners may have their name, and the Festival year inscribed on their trophy, at their own expense, if they wish, so long as the style is consistent with existing inscriptions.
32. All trophies awarded at a Festival must be cleaned and returned in good condition to the Trophy Secretary by 1st March 2025.
33. If a trophy is lost/damaged or not returned on time the Committee reserves the right to:
- charge the recipient for repair or replacement,
 - withhold presentation of further trophies to the recipient and/or school.

GENERAL

34. The Committee cannot accept responsibility for property, including instruments and music, left at the Festival venue.