

# FESTIVAL RULES 2026



## GENERAL

- 1 All entries must be made via the online entry system (RunMyFestival).
- 2 Entries will not be accepted after the closing date.
- 3 A separate entry form is required for each competitor. Assumed names are not permitted.
- 4 Payment for entries must be made to secure the entry. (Contact Entries Coordinator if any problem occurs.)
- 5 No entry will be accepted without the details of the 'own choice' piece.
- 6 The executive committee reserves the right to refuse any entry, in which case the entry fee will be refunded.
- 7 The executive committee will decide the order in which the various classes will be held and, if it is found necessary to transfer classes to another day competitors will be warned beforehand. The order in which competitors will perform within a class is set by use of random order generator software. If a class is considered, by the Entries Coordinator, to have too many competitors, the Festival reserves the right to create an extra class by splitting the competitors into two groups, usually according to age.
- 8 Competitors not appearing when called may be accommodated or may forfeit their right to compete in that particular class subject to the circumstances. If accommodated, their performance may be rescheduled to follow the current or next performer, or at the end of the class, in a way that does not disrupt the flow of proceedings. The Competitor's Steward is to advise the Adjudicator accordingly.
- 9 Where an age limit is specified, or National Curriculum (NC) Year Group, competitors should be prepared to produce proof of age. All ages should be calculated as on the first day of the festival. Date of birth is required for under 18s.
- 10 No competitor is allowed to compete more than once in the same class, including duet and groups, (both music and speech). However, a person may perform with more than one choir or band if they are a regular member of both groups.
- 11 Competitors may not enter the same piece for more than one class.
- 12 Open classes are open to amateurs of all ages.
- 13 Competitors must provide any equipment that they need and must be able to show that any electronic equipment has a valid PAT test sticker or certificate. They must not rely on Festival Volunteers for assistance.
- 14 The time limit for a class is stated in the syllabus. If a competitor exceeds the stated time limit, the adjudicator may ask them to stop and the competitor will forfeit the right to win the class.
- 15 All recording by any audio or visual equipment is TOTALLY BANNED throughout the festival site. Photographs should not be taken during a competition. (Please refer to the Safeguarding Policy.)
- 16 All enquiries, complaints or protests must be made to the Festival 'Chair' by the end of the session to which they refer. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final in all disputed matters and must be accepted.
- 17 Where documents are to be submitted in advance of the festival, such as original compositions,

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they may be sent by post or electronically, or delivered by hand. An acknowledgement of the receipt of the document will be given by email or by phone. The competitor should bring a copy to the class.

### **SPECIFIC TO SPEECH AND DRAMA**

18 A copy of 'own choice' test piece(s) must be brought to the competition room.

19 The copyright laws governing the copying of texts must be adhered to. The festival pays for a licence through its affiliation with BIFF (Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society),

20 A copy must be provided for the adjudicator. This should be handed to the adjudicator's steward in the competition room as each competitor comes forward to perform. Entrants may be disqualified if the copy is not available. Copies should be labelled with the competitor's name and class number. These copies, except for photocopies, will be returned later through the information desk. All photocopies submitted to the adjudicator will be destroyed by the Festival Office staff.

21 The title, author, publisher and ISBN should be stated on the entry form.

22 'Own choice' test pieces must not exceed the stated time limit.

23 Competitors must announce the title and author of their chosen piece when they come forward to perform.

Timing begins after this announcement.

24 Dramatic items must be announced with the title and author at the time of performance to qualify for copyright indemnity. The performer must not change the words or gender of the character.

25 Duologues and group dramatic activity are not generally covered by the ALCS agreement and copyright for these items should be sought by performers at the time of entry. Competitors should present the appropriate paperwork to show that they have obtained this. LAMDA generally allow their works to be performed.

26 In Drama Classes, small hand prop may be used, but not theatrical costume. Chairs and a small table will be available in the rooms for the use of competitors.

### **SPECIFIC TO MUSIC**

27 Competitors must take note of the time limit for the class. Any musical introduction before the competitor starts, or ending after the competitor has stopped, is included in the timing as part of the performance.

28 The Festival official accompanist may be available by arrangement in advance, but competitors may also provide their own. A competitor who requires the services of an accompanist in 'Own Choice' classes may contact Karen Shutt to make their own specific arrangements with her, including payment. They must also provide a copy of the piece chosen, to the Entries Coordinator, Karen Shutt, 14 Craig Walk, Alsager ST7 2RJ, before the entry deadline, otherwise competitors must provide their own accompanist. An original copy must be available on the day of the Festival.

29 Verbal instructions may be given prior to the performance but no provision can be made for a rehearsal with the festival accompanist on the days of the festival.

30 Each competitor must provide a copy of their own choice music for the adjudicator, labelled with the competitor's name and class number. This should be handed to the adjudicator's steward in the competition room as each competitor comes forward to perform. Entrants may be disqualified if the copy is not available. These copies will be returned later through the information desk (see rule 23), except photocopies which are not returned. Photocopies will be accepted when an original copy is present in the room. This Festival complies with the agreement between the British Federation and the

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Music Publishers Association which states: "When an Own Choice work is selected from a publication containing several different works and which is not published separately, one copy may be made for the use of an adjudicator at a festival or competition provided that the competitor has already purchased his/her own copy and that the copy made is retained and destroyed by the Administrator of the festival immediately after the event." This permission applies to copyright holders who are members of the Music Publishers Association. Competitors must obtain permission from copyright holders who are not in the MPA to copy music. Competitors using copies without the appropriate permission may be disqualified, however the adjudicator may agree to hear the performance and write comments. No mark will be given..

31 'Own Choice' pieces must not exceed the time limit stated for the class. No piece may be entered more than once by the same competitor or group. A performer is expected to play from the original copy. Performers playing from memory should bring the original copy with them.

32 No conductor is allowed to sing with the choir he/she is conducting. In unaccompanied choral music, ensembles or vocal quartets, a chord may be struck on the piano.

33 a No competitors or choirs are permitted to rehearse in or near the precincts of the competition rooms.

34 Competitors are not permitted to practise on the Festival pianos, but they may try out the piano before playing.

35 The Syllabus will include extra information about the class requirements.

### **ADJUDICATION AND PRIZES FOR BOTH SPEECH AND MUSIC CLASSES**

36 The adjudicator may take into consideration the quality of the test piece(s) chosen as well as the performance.

37 Trophies and Prizes may be withheld if, in the opinion of the adjudicator, sufficient merit is not shown.

38 The decisions and awards of the adjudicators shall in all cases be final and may not be challenged.

39 The adjudicators' written reports, certificates and copies of competitors' own choice test pieces will be available at the information desk as soon as possible after completion of a class. The cost of these documents is included in the entrance fee, but unclaimed items will not be kept after the close of the festival.

40 The new BIFF marking system will be used.

41 In OPEN Classes, if only one entry is received, that class may not run, at the discretion of the Trustees (unless otherwise stated in the syllabus). The entrant will be informed after entries have closed and the entry fee refunded. This rule does not apply to JUNIOR Classes (i.e. Age restricted classes), where the single entrant may perform for an adjudication. The Trophy may be awarded if, in the opinion of the adjudicator, a sufficient standard has been attained.

42 Trophies are to be held for eleven months only. All winners must sign an acknowledgement form before taking the trophy away. The acknowledgement form will require the Winner's name, (Parent's name if winner is under 18), Entrant's name, address with postcode, email and telephone number. Each trophy will be in a box which should be retained and used to return the trophy in February of the following year. Winners who take away a trophy should check that they are covered by their home insurance. The competitor is responsible for the cost of engraving their name(s) on the trophy or plinth.

43 Trophies should be returned to the Trophy Steward by the end of the second week in February of the following year. The Trophy Steward will write to remind all winners.