

RULES

1. **CLOSING DATE** for entries is **MONDAY 16th JANUARY 2017**.

PLEASE NOTE:

There is no late entry date and late entries are at risk of NOT being accepted:

They will only be accepted if timings allow.

Late entries may not be published in the programme.

2. **AGE LIMITS** are determined as at **1st SEPTEMBER 2016**

In group classes where age limits are stated, the age of the eldest child will denote the class entry.

3. CLASSES.

(a) There is no limit to the number of classes for which a performer may enter, but where categories are offered (i.e. preliminary, primary etc) only one category may be entered.

(b) **GRADED CLASSES:** a performer may enter TWO graded classes, one for which they hold the grade and one higher

(c) **NOVICE CLASSES:** The qualification for entering a novice class is that the entrant should definitely be Pre-Grade 1 and must **not** enter Grade 1. Performers in a Novice Class **must not** perform a Grade 1 piece of music.

(d) Performers may not make more than one entry in any solo class, but in duet and trio classes, they may enter more than once, if accompanied by a different person and that person will not be performing elsewhere in the same class. A piece of music must not be repeated, even if being performed with a different partner.

(e) Performers must only be entered within their grade.

If duet/trio partners are of different grades, the entry must be made in the highest grade e.g. duet/trio partners of Grades 2 and 4, must be entered in a class which caters for Grade 4, *or* elementary/intermediate partners, must be entered in a class which caters for intermediate

TEACHERS AND PARENTS ARE REMINDED THAT CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT PERFORMERS ARE ENTERED IN THE CORRECT CLASS ACCORDING TO HIS/HER STANDARD.

A general guide would be

Elementary: Grades 1 - 2

Transitional: Grades 3 - 4

Intermediate: Grades 5 - 6

Advanced: Grades 7 - 8

3. (f) **WINNERS** of any solo class, *with the exception of the advanced classes*, may not enter the same class the following year, unless where an age is stipulated, they are still within the age range. Winners of classes **MUST NOT** play the same piece the following year.

(g) **CHOIR CLASSES:** Where a Year Group is specified, younger children may enter the group, but the entry must be made in the age range of the eldest children. Where number on roll is specified, if the school roll is very close to the specified number, consult the Festival Office for guidance.

(h) **NON-COMPETITIVE CLASSES:** Performers in these classes will receive a written adjudication and a Festival certificate, but *no* marks and *no* trophy.

4. RESTRICTIONS: Performers who in the 6 months prior to the Festival have been pupils of an Adjudicator appointed to the class in which they have entered, will be ineligible to compete.

5. TIME LIMITS: Where a time limit is imposed, marks will be deducted for an over-run. It is not necessary to perform to the upper time limit.

6. ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS in music, poetry or prose **must** accompany the entry form. These will be timetabled for performance and discussion, although the performance need not be by the composer.

7. COPIES OF OWN CHOICE WORKS

The Music Publishers Association Code of Practice on photocopying copyright works make a concession for copying own choice pieces **FROM VOLUMES ONLY** for the use of the adjudicator at a festival, provided that the entrant or participant has already purchased their own copy.

Photocopies for the adjudicator must be totally legible or they can be refused.

Any photocopy will be retained and destroyed by the Festival Organiser immediately after the close of the class.

Single copies of items may not be photocopied without the prior permission of the copyright holder.

This permission does not apply to music for the accompanist or competitor, who must always perform from a printed copy, except where copies are required to avoid page turning.

Competitors are advised that this permission applies only to copyright holders who are members of the Music Publishers Association, listed at the back of the Code of Practice leaflet, obtainable from the Association at 103, Kingsway, WC2B 6QX.

It is the competitors' own responsibility to ensure that they seek permission to copy direct from any copyright holder whose name does not appear in the list.

Own choice titles and composers **must be** submitted on the entry form.

8. PUBLISHED WORKS & SET PIECES

There must be no re-arrangement of published works.

Difficulty in obtaining a set piece should be notified to the Festival Office immediately.

9. RECORDED MUSIC.

This Festival is affiliated to the British & International Federation of Festivals and participates in its Group Licence to cover payment of fees for the use of recorded music at its event.

Teachers using tapes created from commercial recordings are advised that they should themselves seek permission to re-record from the record companies concerned.

The Festival cannot take responsibility for this.

10. SONGS FROM THE SHOWS – VOCAL & DANCE ENTRIES.

All performances using music from shows in current production are subject to copyright law. Songs from shows in current production may be sung as a concert item, *i.e. with no costume or movement*, without need for copyright permission.

Where movement or costume are included in a performance, it is the responsibility of the performer to obtain copyright permission and the festival committee accepts these entries on the basis that the appropriate copyright permission has been sought. Performers or teachers with queries on how to obtain copyright permission for performance items should contact Festivals House on 01625 428297 before making their entries.

11. CONDUCTING OF SPEECH & DRAMA. Conducting of performers, either verbally or facially by teachers/parents is not allowed.

IF A PERFORMER IS CONDUCTED , MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED .

Performers should be adequately prepared, but if a prompt is required, this will be given by the Adjudicator.

Gestures/actions in the poetry speaking classes are only permitted if they create a physical response. No props are permitted in these classes.

12. MUSICAL THEATRE. The following *must* apply

- ◇ Time limits are strictly adhered to
- ◇ It is not a complete act of a musical play
- ◇ It does not constitute a 'potted version' of the musical play
- ◇ It is performed without any change to either music or lyrics and using only the published or authorized musical arrangements
- ◇ There is no use made of any form of scenery, costume, choreography, staging, character representation or special lighting which gives a visual impression or other portrayal of the writer's original conception of the work from which the excerpt is taken

13. TUNING: Performers in brass & string classes must complete their tuning outside the Auditorium, where possible. Those over 15 years of age must carry out their own tuning.

14. PROFESSIONALS & RETIRED PROFESSIONALS: Solo classes are not open to professionals or retired professionals. A limited number of professionals/retired professionals may take part in an instrumental ensemble, orchestra or choir, provided that they do not receive payment. In chamber groups of up to 10 persons, only one to be professional. In larger groups, the professional element must not be

more than 20%: 10% in the case of brass bands.

For the purpose of this Festival, professionals/retired professionals are defined as those who derive or have derived the bulk of their earnings from remuneration for work in that branch of the Arts with which the competition is concerned.

15. PHOTOGRAPHY, FILMING, VIDEO, TAPE-RECORDING, DIGITAL RECORDING OR RECORDING BY ANY MEANS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. OFFICIAL ACCOMPANIST. It is not possible for performers to have a run-through with an accompanist prior to performance.

Performers should come rehearsed and ready to perform.

Therefore the Festival, for best results, encourages performers to provide their own accompanist.

If this is not possible, the Festival can provide details of persons willing to accompany.

It will be the performers' responsibility to make contact with that person and make their own arrangements for rehearsal and payment.

Please contact the Festival Office if details of persons are required.

All arrangements should be made prior to the Festival: we cannot guarantee an accompanist will be in attendance during the week.

B. FESTIVAL PROGRAMME & TIME TABLE. Each performer requires a Festival Programme to ascertain the time and day of performance.

Price £3.00 plus postage.

These will be available at the end of February and should be ordered when entering.

(Only one is required - not one per entry)

Performers should carefully consult the programme as the Festival accepts no responsibility for performers being unaware of their performance day and time.

Programmes are not published on the Festival website.

Timetables will be published as they become available.

C. PERFORMANCE TIMING. Performers entering more than one class should check to make sure there is not a clash of timings, and, if there is, they should contact the Festival Office immediately.

Performers must be ready to perform, two performances before their allocated placing in the class.

NO FOOD OR SWEETS to be taken into any hall.

D. ENTRANCE TO VENUES. All performers, teachers, accompanists and conductors **must** display badges on entering the auditorium. Badges are supplied free of charge and will admit performers to all sessions of the Festival.

Please order badges on entry form.

Parents and others in any way connected with the performers, are *not* entitled to free admission and must purchase a ticket (£2.00) on the door.

E. FESTIVAL ETIQUETTE Performers and audience are reminded that whilst they are waiting for adjudications, there should be little or no movement around the hall, conversation should be kept to the minimum and eating is not allowed. Teachers and performers **MUST NOT** communicate with the adjudicator during the session.

F. AUDIENCE. The Festival accepts no responsibility for members of the audience missing a performance. The position of performers in a class may be changed on the day for various reasons and withdrawals may mean the class will close early. To ensure that no performance is missed it is advisable that persons wishing to be present for a particular performance are present at the venue at least 5 minutes before the commencement of the class. No class will commence before the published time. Tickets available at door on day of performance.

G. DUTY OF CARE TO YOUNG PERSONS. Parents and teachers are reminded that the safety of young people in their care is their responsibility during the Festival. The Festival Committee have done their best to ensure that you can keep within eye contact throughout the Festival. The Courtyard staff, or staff at other venues, cannot accept responsibility for young people not in the care of a parent or teacher. Please read Safeguarding Policy on Pages 40 & 41 and on website.

H. DISCLAIMER. All attending the Festival are reminded to take care of their personal property - handbags, instruments, etc. The Festival cannot be responsible for loss.

I. OBJECTIONS & APPEALS. Any objection or appeal must be made to the Festival Organiser, **in writing, immediately after the result is announced.** It must be accompanied by a deposit of £5 which will be returned if the appeal is allowed or not considered frivolous. The Committee's interpretation of the Rules and its decision on any point shall be final. Verbal abuse will not be tolerated.

J. FESTIVAL CONCERT - SATURDAY 1st APRIL 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

Selected performers will be invited to perform their test pieces. Tickets will be available from The Courtyard Box Office - telephone 01432 340555 or www.courtyard.org.uk

K. AWARDS

Adjudication Sheets & Certificates should be collected from the Festival Office at The Courtyard, Hereford, during Festival week. Anyone not able to do this should leave a SAE at the Festival Office if they wish them to be posted at a later date.

Certificates will be awarded to performers gaining 75 and over.

Up to and including trio classes, individual certificates will be awarded: for larger groups only one certificate will be awarded.

The marking will reflect the standardisation and moderation of marks being recommended by the Federation and will be as follows:

Outstanding	90 & over	Merit	81 - 83
Distinction	87 - 89	Moderate	78 - 80
Commended	84 - 86	Fair	75 -77

Descriptors:

Outstanding: An exceptional performance both technically & artistically

Distinction: An excellent performance technically & artistically

Commended: A convincing performance technically & artistically

Merit: A capable performance showing some artistic appreciation and/or technical ability

Moderate: A performance showing development of technique and/or communication

Fair: A performance limited in its communication

Trophies

- will only be awarded for a mark of 84 or over
- are engraved, where applicable, at the competitor's expense and must be in keeping with previous engraving
- are held for TEN MONTHS ONLY. Care must be taken of them and any damage or loss must be made good by the holder.

Trophy winners will be required to sign an acknowledgment undertaking the safe keeping of trophies.

An adjudicator may with-hold any award and may stop any performance at his/her discretion. The Adjudicator's decision in all cases shall be final.

A full list of trophies & awards will be published at the Festival Concert.