

Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama 2021 - Special Edition Syllabus

8-12 March 2021, Venue to be confirmed

Welcome to this special edition of the Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama Syllabus which has been created specifically for this year only in light of the continued uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 virus. The Festival Committee is committed to still try to offer live performance opportunities within a safe, compliant environment if at all possible in March. We will be constantly monitoring and reviewing the Government guidelines as they are updated. By making an entry, we ask that you therefore do so on the understanding that everything is subject to alteration.

In order to be able to best manage the performances within the anticipated restrictions, this will be a scaled-down version of our usual Festival. The performances will take place over 3-4 days between 8-12 March and the number of performers limited within each class. There will only be solo performances, no duets or groups. To assist us with this, entrants are therefore asked to enter a 'general' class for the discipline they choose, providing their name, age, title of piece, composer/author, length of piece (and grade level if applicable for music entries). There are no themes or set pieces. Performers have a free choice of piece provided it is within the given time limit. Classes will then be sorted according to age or grade level after the entry deadline of 31 December 2020. Please note that depending upon the entries received, the music classes will either be sorted by age or by instrument/level, so in the age specific classes there may be a mixture of instruments.

Please read the following pages carefully before making your entry as there will be new, important information of which you will need to be aware.

We do hope to see you all in person in March and thank you for your ongoing support and understanding in these challenging times.

The Festival Committee

Entry and Administrative Procedures

Entry to the Festival will be online at the Festival's website www.bedfordshirefestival.org.uk

To comply with current child protection laws we will need to collect the gender and chaperone information for all Junior entrants. We need this to obtain our BOPA certificate from the Council. This may be subject to change throughout the course of 2020/21.

During the Festival

- Entrants or their representatives may not have contact with the Adjudicators before, during or after any class in which they are participating.
- Performers are reminded that a printed copy of the piece to be performed must be available in the performance venue, even if it is not to be used. This is a legal requirement to enable the Festival to meet the requirements of the Performing Rights Society (see Rule 14). The Festival reserves the right to disqualify any performer who does not adhere to this.
- Once the timetable of classes has been established you will be informed of your required arrival time.
- Each performer is allowed only one audience member to support them.
- Only one entry per person per discipline
- Masks/face coverings are to be worn at all times except when performing.
- Performers are reminded to dress appropriately for public performance.
- Changes to piece titles may not be made after the entry deadline.
- Performers in Speech and Drama classes should announce the title and writer of their piece.
- Performers in Music classes are invited to announce the title and composer of their piece.
- Any entrant failing to comply with the time limit may be disqualified.
- Any form of recording during a performance at the Festival is illegal.
- All performances are limited to 5 minutes
- There will be no trophies or monetary prizes awarded this year. Instead, the winner of each class will receive a Festival

medal.

- Mark sheets, certificates and medals will be posted out to performers during the week following the Festival. The Festival Office will not be open.
- Copies of scripts and music will not be required to be given to the Adjudicator this year.
- The Festival organisers cannot accept any liability for loss or damage to instruments or any other property.

Festival Rules of Entry

Please read these carefully before entering.

1. Eligibility – No professional performer may compete. A professional is someone who derives his/her livelihood from the branch of performance in which she/he seeks to enter the Festival.
2. Entries.
 - a) Entries must be submitted online using the website www.bedfordshirefestival.org.uk.
 - b) Please note that changes to piece titles will not be accepted after the closing date of 31st December.

For this year only, payments for entries will be delayed and taken from 1 February 2021. The entry fee will be £10 per entry. You will be contacted prior to 1 February 2021 with confirmation of the payment process.

Requests for specific times or dates for performances cannot be taken into account at the stage of entry or any other time. It is essential that the information submitted on the entry form is accurate in every respect.

Please note that invoices cannot be provided for entry fees.

Queries may be made either via our website (www.bedfordshirefestival.org.uk) or by contacting the following;

Mrs Alix Smith 07824 829097 - festival@bedfordshirefestival.org.uk

All questions on the online entry form must be answered. The organisers reserve the right to reject any proposed entry. No person is allowed to perform twice in one class.

3. Official Accompanist

- All performers requiring piano accompaniment will be accompanied by the official accompanist (or their designated member of the audience) due to the restricted number of people allowed in the venue.
- Entrants should send or deliver a copy of their piano accompaniments to Tim Grant-Jones at 35 Church Walk, Kempston, Beds MK42 7BH as soon as the entry is submitted.
- Pages should be joined together and be made useable on the day, in the right order and complete with any repeat markings confirmed.
- The performers name and class number should be written at the top of the front page
- No double sided pages, deliveries requiring a signature or downloads please.

4. Backing Tracks

- Pre-recorded backing tracks are not permitted for use as an accompaniment.

5. Own choice pieces

- a) Repeats may be played as long as the performance is within the time limit. 'Da Capo' markings should always be observed. Accompanists may abridge any long introductions or tutti sections when playing orchestral reductions.
- b) Performers are responsible for any royalty payments due.
- c) Arrangements of pieces may be played as long as they have been specifically arranged for that instrument
- d) Adjudicators reserve the right to disqualify a performance if they consider the piece/song too elementary for their level

6. Entrants are reminded that they must adhere to the published deadlines. The Festival organisers are legally bound by the Performing Rights Society requirements governing the details contained in the programme.

7. Time limits. The Adjudicator may stop a performance when the time limit has been reached. A performance that exceeds the time limit may result in disqualification.
8. Awards. The categories used are those recommended by the British & International Federation of Festivals.
 - O - Outstanding. An exceptional performance, both technically and artistically.
 - D - Distinction. An excellent performance technically and artistically.
 - C - Commended. A convincing performance technically and artistically.

M - Merit. A capable performance showing some artistic appreciation and/or technical ability.

MO - Moderate. A performance showing development of technique and/or communication.

F - Fair. A performance limited in its communication.

The Adjudicator's decision will be regarded as final. Awards may be withheld if the Adjudicator feels that insufficient merit has been shown. Certificates for First, Second and Third placings will normally be awarded.

Medals. These will be awarded for First place only and sent out to the winners with the mark sheets and certificates during the week after the Festival.

Trophies. No trophies to be awarded this year.

Awards designated in this syllabus may be subject to change before the Festival.

9. General

a) The Committee reserve the right to substitute any Adjudicator without notice.

b) The Committee reserve the right to consolidate classes.

10. Performance from memory

No extra credit will be given for playing and singing from memory. However, memorising is essential in all Speech and Drama classes unless stated otherwise. If a prompt is required, it must be given only by the Adjudicator or as delegated.

11. Instrumental Classes

Entrants should perform a piece at the grade level at which they are currently working or have recently been successful. Entrants should always consult their teacher when choosing the class and the own choice piece to be played.

Only one piece is to be submitted for performance.

12. Tuning

Due to the restrictions performers of all levels will need to be responsible for their own tuning. It is the entrant's or their teacher's responsibility to ensure that assistance is available at the time of the class if needed. As the number of people allowed in the venue will be limited, this should be taken into consideration. Performers are advised to have their instruments well-tuned before their arrival at the Festival so that minimal adjustment is required. The official accompanist will act as a guide if requested, but will not handle the instrument.

13. Performing rights

As details of all music played throughout the Festival will be sent to the PRS, entrants need not obtain permission for performance.

Copyright

It is the responsibility of each entrant to ensure that the use of any artistic work is not in breach of copyright. The Festival committee accepts no responsibility for any breach of this rule.

Photography

Photography and video recording by camera or mobile devices is strictly prohibited. The Festival Committee may appoint an official photographer during the Festival week for the purposes of publicity. By entering the Festival you consent to being photographed unless you indicate otherwise at the time of entry.

14. Festival Policies, Rules and Regulations

Receipt of monies in payment for entry to Festival classes will be taken to indicate that entrants have read the Festival rules, Policies and specific guidelines for Covid-19 compliance and that they accept all the rules and regulations of the Festival as indicated in this document. The Committee reserves the right to alter any of the arrangements detailed in the Syllabus. All entrants should be aware that arrangements for this Festival are subject to alteration and last-minute changes due to the continued revision of Government Guidelines surrounding the Covid-19 virus.

15. Child Performance Legislation

In order to comply with the current Child Performance Legislation the Festival is required to pass details of ALL children taking part in the Festival to the relevant Local Authority. These details include the gender and chaperone information. This information will be requested as part of the entry form. All data will be handled securely in line with GDPR. This may be subject to change.

CLASSES

MUSIC

Vocal Solo; entry fee: £10

Own choice of a piece of vocal music

Time limit: 5 minutes

Keyboard Solo; entry fee: £10

Own choice of a piece of keyboard music

Time limit: 5 minutes

Brass Solo; entry fee: £10

Own choice of a piece of music for a brass instrument

Time limit: 5 minutes

Woodwind Solo; entry fee: £10

Own choice of a piece of music for a woodwind instrument

Time limit: 5 minutes

String Solo; entry fee: £10

Own choice of a piece of music for a stringed instrument

Time limit: 5 minutes

Children and adults are invited to enter ONE ITEM per instrument

SPEECH AND DRAMA

Verse Speaking Solo; entry fee: £10

Own choice of a poem to be spoken aloud from memory

Time limit: 5 minutes

Prepared Reading Solo; entry fee: £10

Own choice of a reading from any book

Time limit: 5 minutes

Dramatic Solo; entry fee: £10

Own choice of a scene

Time limit: 5 minutes

Shakespeare Solo; entry fee: £10

An extract from any Shakespeare play

Time limit: 5 minutes

Acting Through Song Solo; entry fee: £10

A devised scene leading into own choice song from any stage musical. The use of the original storyline and character is strictly prohibited. The performer must place the scene and song within a new context.

Time limit: 5 minutes

Write and Speak a Poem; entry fee: £10

The entrant is to write a poem on the subject of their own choice which they read aloud at the Festival.

Time limit: 5 minutes

Religious Text Reading Solo

Own choice of a passage from a religious text of the candidate's own choice to be read in English.

Time limit: 5 minutes

Children and adults are invited to enter ONE ITEM per discipline