



Ensembles and Other Music Classes

Selected performers from all the instrumental classes will be eligible to compete for the Swan Hotel Rose Bowl at the Gala Concert on the final day of the Festival. Performers will be notified before the event if they have been selected to perform and should hold themselves available to compete if asked to do so. Those who perform at the Gala Concert qualify to be considered for the Woodfine Lousada Musical Sponsorship Cup & Prize of £250. This is awarded to the most outstanding Musical performance at the Gala Concert.

Other Classes

Class 148 Novice - any instrument (including piano) or voice - 16 years & over; entry fee £13.00

Own choice. Open to performers over 16 years of age who have not previously performed in public.

(Time limit 5 minutes)

The Mary Infield Challenge Cup

Class 149 Jazz - any instrument - Any age; entry fee £13.00

The piece(s) should be selected from Jazz standards, or performers could perform their own composition. In either case a copy of the head is required. The performance must include an improvised section.

Backing tracks may be used. All equipment to be provided and set up by entrant.

The official accompanist is available for this class

(Time limit for item 5 minutes)

A Festival Cup

Class 151 Open - Solo or group Non-competitive; entry fee £13.00

Any instrument or voice.

Own choice of any piece/song.

(Time limit 4 minutes)

Festival Performance Certificates awarded to all entrants

Class 154 Concerto - any age; entry fee £20.50

Own choice. There is no time limit for this class, but entrants are requested to give an indication of the length of the piece upon entering.

A movement of any work for solo instrument (except organ) or voice normally with orchestral accompaniment played from memory.

For piano entrants a digital piano will be made available for the accompaniment. See page 5 for information regarding the Official Accompanist.

The Kate Freyhan Cup

The Festival Sponsorship Prize of £30, £20.



Class 155 Composition - entry fee £13.00

A performance or a recording from an original composition of any length.

Scores and a recording of the piece to be submitted to the Secretary by **1st February**. Live solo or ensemble performance only. (see also - pop song class 52C)

A Festival Cup

Class 156A Composer Class - Any age, Instrument or Voice - Solo, Duet or Group.

Entry fees: Solo £13.00, Duet £15.00, Group £22.00

Any piece or song by Mozart.

(Time limit for performance 5 minutes)

A Festival Cup

Class 157A Versatility Class - any two instruments including voice - any age or standard; entry fee £13.00

Own choice of two different pieces to be played on two contrasting instruments from different instrumental families e.g., flute and piano, violin and oboe, NOT violin and viola, clarinet and saxophone. The performers' two pieces will receive equal marks. Performers are not expected to be of the same level in both instruments.

(Time limit for performance 10 minutes)

Class 157B Festival All-Rounder Class – Year 9 & below; entry fee £13.00

Entrants should perform a piece of music, either vocal or instrumental, and a piece of speech & drama. The two pieces should be linked in some way, for example by theme.

Entrants should give a brief introduction explaining the reasons for choosing the two pieces and how they are linked. Both music and speech & drama sections will be adjudicated equally.

(Time limit for performance 10 minutes)

Class 157C Festival All-Rounder Class – Year 10 & over; entry fee £13.00

Entrants should perform a piece of music, either vocal or instrumental, and a piece of speech & drama. The two pieces should be linked in some way, for example by theme.

Entrants should give a brief introduction explaining the reasons for choosing the two pieces and how they are linked. Both music and speech & drama sections will be adjudicated equally.

(Time limit for performance 10 minutes)



Music Ensembles

Groups may consist of any combination of instruments including strings, limited piano support only.

Class 158 Music Groups - Year 6 & below (Age 10 and under); entry fee £24.00

A selection of contrasting pieces.

Groups may consist of any combination of instruments. Voices may be included.

(Time limit 10 minutes)

The Ham Shield

Class 159 Music Groups - Year 7 and above (age 11 and over); entry fee £24.00

A selection of contrasting pieces.

Groups may consist of any combination of instruments. Voices may be included.

(Time limit 12 minutes)

The Roy Rimmer Cup

Class 161 Celebration of Music, Speech and Drama from Community groups - any age – Non-competitive

No entry fee

To include performances by Special Schools and adult groups.

Own choice of any form of musical or dramatic activity, or expressive movement. Simple accessories, costumes and token properties permitted. Amplified sound permitted although the performers are responsible for supplying, setting up and striking of the equipment.

(Time limit 5 minutes per piece).

Groups may choose to enter several different groups/pieces but produce one large performance rather than separate smaller pieces. On entry, groups should enter each individual group/piece, therefore up to 5 minutes performance time each.

Groups which enter will also be encouraged to prepare a piece of music/song to be performed by all the participants at the end of the session. Further details can be obtained by contacting the Festival Secretary.

Festival Performance Certificates awarded to all entrants.

This class is supported by Bedford Music Hub and in memory of Mrs S D Mayor

Class 162 Open Ensembles - any age; entry fee £22.00

E.g., Hand Bells, Steel Bands, Rock & Pop, Recorder Ensembles, Ukulele Ensembles, Drumming, Gamelan etc.

Ensembles should consist of more than 3 voices or musicians.

A contrasting programme.

(Time limit 8 minutes)



Class 166 Jazz Improvisation - any age - Solo or Group; entry fee Solo £13.00, Group £22.00

The piece(s) should be selected from Jazz standards, or performers could perform their own composition. In either case a copy of the head is required. The performance must include an improvised section.

Backing tracks may be used. All equipment to be provided and set up by entrant.

The official accompanist is available for this class

(Time limit 5 minutes)

A Festival Cup

Class 168 Chamber Music Ensemble - any age; entry fee £22.00

Own choice - any combination of instruments, not less than 3 players,

One player per part.

(Time limit 10 minutes)

A Festival Cup

Class 170 Music Group - Family Class; entry fee £15.00

Own choice.

Open to members of the same family or household. Duets, trios, quartets or groups composed of any number of participants may be entered and may be vocal or instrumental or a combination of both.

(Time limit 10 minutes)

The Amy and Ron Whittingham Cup

Orchestras, Wind Bands and Brass Bands

Classes 175, 176 and 179 may be merged

* For school groups with more than 20 performers, up to two teachers may play with the group in a supportive capacity only.

Class 175 Orchestras, Wind, Brass and Jazz Bands - any age*; entry fee £24.00

Own choice.

Regular members only; no soloist to be featured in the performance.

12 or more players; string bass and percussion allowed

(Time limit 10 minutes)

The Lord Luke Bowl

Class 176 Wind Bands - 13 years & under (Year 8 & below)*; entry fee £24.00

Own choice.

12 or more players; string bass and percussion allowed.

(Time limit 10 minutes)

A Festival Cup

2025 Syllabus: 1st – 8th March 2025

Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama

Make your entries online at: www.bedfordshirefestival.org.uk by 1st December 2024



Class 179 Brass Ensemble - any age; entry fee £22.00

Own choice.

One player per part. No conductor. No teachers allowed in school ensembles.

(Time limit 10 minutes)

The Mr C Baylis Cup