



WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1034614

2026 SYLLABUS

'EARLY BIRD' DISCOUNT
UNTIL 1ST DECEMBER 2025

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES:
FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2025**



WCAAF
75TH ANNIVERSARY
2026

CATEGORIES:

COMPOSITION
CLASSICAL MUSIC
CHOIRS
JAZZ
ROCK AND POP

POETRY
DRAMA
SPEECH
MUSICAL THEATRE
CREATIVE WRITING



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A very warm welcome to the 75th Worcestershire Creative Arts Festival!

This year marks our 75th Anniversary and we are hoping to celebrate in many ways. You may have noticed a slight change in our name and our logo. The change to 'Worcestershire' hopefully signals our commitment to outreach and inclusion, aiming to give amateur performers and writers in our county and beyond an opportunity to demonstrate their skills in a friendly and supportive environment. WCAF is for anyone, of any age, from anywhere, no matter your age, ability or experience! The change from 'competitive' to 'creative' does not mean that there will not be any competitive sections. In fact, far from it! This year, there are more opportunities to perform than ever and we are pleased to offer both non-competitive and competitive opportunities across all sections. We simply want to signal our commitment to the wonderful creativity we see each year.

Once again, we have made the decision to offer FREE ENTRY to any choir or large ensemble, as long as the entries are made and paid for by Monday 1st December 2025. We are also able to offer a 25% discount to all solo and group entries across the festival made by Monday 1st December 2025 and free entries in the creative writing competitions and poetry slam. Please see the different sections of the syllabus for further details. All entries should be made online via www.playandperform.uk If this poses any problems, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do all we can to help.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Deadline for early bird discounts: Monday 1st December 2025

Closing date for entries: Friday 19th December 2025

Deadline for uploads: Friday 16th January 2026

Musical Theatre: Saturday 28th February and Sunday 1st March 2026

Music (including choirs): Saturday 7th March 2026

Rock/Pop: Sunday 8th and Sunday 15th March 2026

Poetry, Prose & Drama: Saturday 14th March 2026

Festival Gala Concert: Saturday 21st March 2026

We would like to thank all of our venues for the hire of their premises and all of our sponsors for their generous support.

WCAF is affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Speech and Drama. The 2026 WCAF Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd October 2026. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please see our website: www.wcaf.org.uk for further details.

WCAF is run on a voluntary basis. We are always in need of help with stewarding and general support on festival days. If you could offer any assistance, we would be most grateful. Please contact admin@wcaf.org.uk for further details.

COMMITTEE

Kate Branchett (Chair), Sarah Stone (Vice Chair), Harriet Struthers (Treasurer), Vacant (Secretary), Phillip Ray (Festival Safeguarding Officer), Nick Austin, Lucas Ball, Debra Bertulis, Lucy Capel, Catherine Cantin, Anna Carter, Lottie Gilson, Jennifer Greenald, Bryan Husband, Pam Lilley, Kieran Lilley, Natalie Ray, Sharon Vas

Honorary Life Members - Mrs Marian Walters MBE and Mrs Rosemary Hopkins

Life members - Mrs V. Cairns, Mrs L. Cole, Mrs S. Joynes, Mrs B. Spybey, Mrs A. Uren, Mrs J. Venables

Welcome from our President

Michael Lunney - Artistic Director/Producer of Middle Ground Theatre Co. Ltd

Welcome to all our young competitors. I wish them all well with their endeavours. This is their chance to showcase their burgeoning talents after the long sessions of rehearsal and practice. I celebrate their journeys and their unwavering dedication. Remember, incubating talent is to be found in every walk of life! I hope that all our youthful hopefuls remember to enjoy their time in the spotlight even when their nerves dictate otherwise! Break-a-leg!

'I learn the text so deeply that I think it has some chemical effect in my brain. I believe in learning the text which is there. Once you know it so well that you can improvise and make it real, it's easy. You can't pretend to know - it's impossible to, and I couldn't do it. I've worked with actors who don't know their stuff, and they were just wasting everyone's time.' Anthony Hopkins

'If poetry and the arts do anything, they can fortify your inner life, your inwardness.'
Seamus Heaney

'Writing is a form of therapy; sometimes I wonder how all those who do not write, compose or paint can manage to escape the madness, melancholia, the panic and fear which is inherent in a human situation.'
Graham Greene

Michael Lunney is the British/Irish Artistic Director/Producer of Middle Ground Theatre Co Ltd and has been since its inauguration in 1988. He has produced/directed over fifty UK/Eire theatre tours playing the likes of Bath Theatre Royal, The Gaiety Dublin, The Mayflower Southampton, Grand Opera House Belfast, Nottingham Theatre Royal, The Olympia Dublin, Plymouth Theatre Royal, His Majesty's Theatre Aberdeen, Oxford Playhouse, Cambridge Arts Theatre, Brighton Theatre Royal, Lime Tree Theatre Limerick, Norwich Theatre Royal, Yvonne Arnaud Guildford, Malvern Theatres, Theatr Clwyd Mold, Theatre Royal York, Alhambra Theatre Bradford, New Theatre Cardiff and Kings Theatre Edinburgh to name but a few. He also produced/directed charitable performances of 'Meeting Joe Strummer' at The Arts Theatre, West End in 2007.

He has worked over the last four decades with hundreds of gifted actors from the UK/USA/Ireland and beyond including Golden Globe and Bafta Best Actress Nominee Kelly McGillis, TIFF Life Time Achievement Winner and RSC/National Theatre Leading Man Richard Johnson, Olivier Award Winner and Bafta Best Actor Nominee Jack Shepherd (3 plays), Bafta Best Actor Nominee Tony Britton (3 plays), Bafta Best Actress Nominee Judy Cornwell, Multi Golden Globe Best Actress Nominee Stephanie Powers, National Society Of Film Critics Best Actor Nominee Barry Foster along with Dirk Benedict, Philip Madoc, Louise Jameson, George Sewell, Lewis Collins, Diane Fletcher, Gareth Thomas, Sarah Hadland, Dermot Walsh (3 plays), Colin Baker, Terrence Hardiman, Glyn Owen, Patrick Robinson and Hildegard Neil to name but a few.

Paul Farrer - Patron

Paul Farrer is one of the UK's highest profile media composers. He has composed the music for numerous films, video games and TV programmes including Dancing on Ice, Gladiators, Ant and Dec's Push the Button, the Krypton Factor, the Chase, Jedward's Big Adventure, Fort Boyard, the Jerry Springer Show and the BBC's most successful international format of all - The Weakest Link. He is the recipient of a BMI Composer Award. He is a member of both the Media Executive of the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors and a member of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).

WCAF Special Awards

The following trophies and honours will be awarded to the most outstanding performances in the Festival, with the recommendation of the adjudicators. Winners should be available to perform at the Festival Concert on Saturday 21st March 2026, where the trophies will be presented.

THE MICHAEL LUNNEY PRIZE

This will be awarded to a competitor who has given an exceptional performance in acting. The winner will be awarded a week's work experience with Middle Ground Theatre Company Ltd at one of the touring theatres to be found on our itineraries in the autumn of 2026 or the spring of 2027.

WORCESTER ARTS COUNCIL TROPHY FOR HIGH ACHIEVEMENT IN DRAMA

WORCESTER ARTS COUNCIL TROPHY FOR HIGH ACHIEVEMENT IN MUSIC

ROTARY YOUNG PERFORMER OF THE YEAR

This trophy, kindly donated by Worcester Severn Rotary, will be awarded to a competitor of 12 years or under, who has given an outstanding performance in drama.

INNER WHEEL YOUNG PERFORMER OF THE YEAR TROPHY

This trophy, kindly donated by Worcester Severn Rotary, will be awarded to a competitor of 12 years or under, who has given an outstanding performance in music.

In addition, there are several classes across the festival where specific trophies and prizes are awarded. Winners will be expected to perform at the Festival Concert on Saturday 21st March 2026. These include:

000 MARIAN BAKER MEMORIAL PRIZE AND CUP: This prize was donated by the friends and family of the late Marian Baker, a teacher from Kidderminster. Two contrasting pieces of a minimum of Grade 6 standard may be presented on any instrument of voice by any performer aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2025. The prize will be £45 providing Distinction or Honours is achieved.

001 SPROULE PRIZE & TROPHY FOR SPEECH, DRAMA AND MUSIC UP TO 15 YEARS: Any performer aged 15 years or under may perform a poem or an acted scene AND a song or a piece of music on any instrument of the candidate's choice. The Sproule Trophy and £50 will be awarded, providing distinction or honours is achieved.

002 WILLIAM LEWIS RECITAL PRIZE AND SALVER: This prize was donated by the parents and friends of the late William Lewis of Stourport. An interesting, varied programme of two or more contrasting pieces of a minimum of Grade 6 standard for any instrument or voice should be presented, choice of which will be taken into account in adjudication. The William Lewis Salver & £100 will be awarded, providing distinction or honours is achieved.

304 OPEN CLASS FOR PIANO SOLO: The winner of this class will receive the Vale Trophy (kindly donated by Vale Pianos) at the Festival Concert, provided they receive an honours or distinction certificate.

613 OPEN CLASS FOR LIEDER: The winner of this class will receive the Susan Ellis Lieder Prize at the Festival Concert. The prize will be £50, providing the winner gains a Distinction or Honours certificate.

WCAF JUNIOR AND SENIOR CHOIRS OF THE YEAR: The WCAF Junior and Senior Choir of the Year trophies and prizes are donated by Jan Venables, who is a long-standing and much valued committee member, with connections to the festival stretching back to her own childhood. The titles,

trophies and prize of £50 will be awarded at the adjudicator's discretion to one choir achieving distinction or honours in any of the choral classes 1300/1301/1302/1308/1309/1310 and one choir achieving distinction or honours in any of the choral classes 1303/1304/1311/1312 choral sections.

930 FESTIVAL PRIZE FOR SOLO ACTING - 20 YEARS AND UNDER: Programme of acting of three contrasting characters of the performer's own choice. A prize of £50 will be awarded providing the winner gains a Distinction or Honours certificate.

1006 BERTULIS SOLO VERSE SPEAKING CHALLENGE TROPHY: The winners of classes 1000, 1001 and 1002 (Set Verse Speaking classes for all ages 12 years and under on 1st September 2023) will be invited to perform again to compete for the Bertulis Solo Verse Speaking Challenge Trophy. This additional class will take place on Saturday 21st March 2026, ahead of the Festival Concert.

1231/1232/1233 THE MARY MANNION COMPOSITION TROPHY: This trophy and a voucher to the value of £15 may be awarded at the adjudicator's discretion to the winner of class 1231/1232/1233 for Instrumental or Song Composition.

General Rules and Regulations

WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL RULES 2026

Reviewed and applicable from: 1st September 2025

GENERAL

1. Entries open on 1st September 2025 and must be submitted electronically via the PlayandPerform platform by 23:45 on 19th December 2025. Verbal or paper entries will not be accepted.
2. The person making the entries should ensure that each entrant is aware of all the rules and has read the Safeguarding Policy and the Privacy documents.
3. No entry can be accepted unless accompanied by the correct fee. Fees can be paid via credit or debit card or by BACS transfer at the point of making the entry via PlayandPerform. Cheque payment may be accepted in exceptional circumstances. Please email admin@wcaf.org.uk to discuss.
4. Where relevant, adjudicators copies, manuscripts of original work, videos and backing tracks and must be submitted electronically by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Late submissions may not be accepted and entry fees may be forfeited if submissions are not received by the deadline.
5. Entries may be withdrawn at any point, but fees are non-refundable. Competitors withdrawing from classes are asked to let us know as early as possible: admin@wcaf.org.uk
6. The Committee reserves the right to:
 - i. Offer and withdraw discounts or free entry offers;
 - ii. Change any class to a virtual class, meaning that video submissions will be required by the advertised deadline;
 - iii. Cancel any class and return the fee;
 - iv. Divide and/or combine some classes;
 - v. Change the order of individual performers in a class and if necessary, the class itself; and
 - vi. Make any changes necessary to the festival to accommodate any current government guidance.
7. The Competitor's age on 1st September 2025 shall be regarded as his/her age for the purposes of the competitions. (This corresponds with the academic year 1st September - 31st August.) Therefore, age groups usually equate to the following school year groups:
 - 8 years and under - School year 4 and below
 - 10 years and under - School year 6 and below
 - 12 years and under - School year 8 and below
 - 14 years and under - School year 10 and below
 - 16 years and under - School year 12 and belowIf you have any queries regarding this (for example, if a child is in a different school year than would be expected) please contact us: admin@wcaf.org.uk to discuss.
8. Open categories can be entered by anyone of any age. Entrants to Open Adult solo categories should be aged 18 or over. For ensembles, if the majority of members are aged 18 or over, this may be acceptable. Please email: admin@wcaf.org.uk to discuss, if necessary.
9. Competitors may enter only ONE age or standard class plus the OPEN CLASS in each SECTION. Performances on two DIFFERENT instruments may be entered in the same class/section. Individuals may take part in more than one group or ensemble in the same section.
10. A different piece must be played or performed for each entry in the same section. Pieces performed in any section may be performed again in the special classes.
11. It is the performer's responsibility to ensure that they have the correct equipment and music to enable them to perform. Due to difficulties experienced in other recent festivals, our festival advises against the sole use of digital devices as a digital score.
12. Competitors who overrun time limits or perform in the incorrect genre will receive adjudicator's comments only and will not be placed. The adjudicator's decision is final and in no circumstances will any subsequent discussion or correspondence be entered into.
13. No eating or drinking is allowed in the performance rooms (except at the Marr's Bar), but water

bottles are permitted.

14. Individuals should bring their own music stands with them. Bands and orchestras requiring music stands please contact admin@wcaf.org.uk AT LEAST one week before the festival.

15. Recording and photography of Classes is NOT allowed during performances and adjudications. We may have an official photographer who will take photographs during festival days, which may subsequently be used by the Press or on the Festival website. Where parents, guardians or carers do not wish photos to be taken at all, then the responsible adult attending should ensure that a committee member is aware so that their child/pupil/vulnerable adult is not included in official authorised photos.

16. One of the following categories will be awarded to each performance: Developing, Progressing, Merit, Commended, Honours, Outstanding, Exceptional. In all cases the Adjudicator's decision will be final. The Adjudicator will announce the winner of each class. In classes of 5 or more, a 2nd place will also be awarded. In classes of 10 or more, a 3rd place will also be awarded.

17. Copies of the Adjudicator's remarks should be collected from the steward at the close of each Class. Certificates should be collected from the certificate area in the foyer. There may be a slight delay, as certificates are prepared as quickly as possible following the end of the class.

18. Trophy winners are required to sign a form on receipt of their trophy.

19. The timetable will be available in advance on the WCAF website: www.wcaf.org.uk It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure they are in the correct place at the right time. A map and signage will be available at the venue.

MUSIC CLASSES

20. In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE PIECE is to be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, ONE or TWO pieces may be performed unless otherwise stated. Timings should include breaks between pieces. The competitor should give an introduction (no longer than 30 seconds) including the title of the piece to be performed.

21. A copy of own choice pieces must be provided for the Adjudicator in the same key as the performance. For Rock and Pop and Jazz classes, a formal score might not always be appropriate, but a chord tab or crib sheet MUST be provided instead, clearly indicating the title and composer. Unauthorised copying of music is an infringement of copyright. If the music is out of print, permission to copy MUST be obtained in writing from the publishers and a copy of their letter or email attached to the music. The Music Publishers' Association has issued a code of practice making the concession that own choice pieces may be copied from volumes only and for the use of the Adjudicator only. The copying of music for the accompanist is forbidden. Photocopies for the Adjudicator must be totally legible. With the exception of the above concession, no other photocopying of music is permitted. If music is downloaded from the internet, the performer should also print off and submit the permission statement that accompanies the music. The adjudicators' photocopies will not be returned.

22. We may be able to provide an accompanist, but this cannot be guaranteed. Please indicate when making your entry that this would be your preference so that numbers can be assessed. Where necessary, competitors should bring their own accompanist (and page turner where necessary). Pre-recorded backing tracks are only acceptable where stated in the syllabus.

23. Where specifically stated in the syllabus, high quality backing tracks may be used, providing that they are balanced and do not detract from the overall performance. Where backing tracks are used, they must be uploaded by 16th January 2026. The backing track should not include the same vocal line or instrument that is being performed. Performers are responsible for ensuring that the uploaded version is correct.

MUSICAL THEATRE, POETRY, PROSE AND DRAMA CLASSES

24. The Festival has an agreement with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society. This means that entrants do not have to seek copyright permission for any poetry, prose or SOLO dramatic item performed, to a time limit of 15 minutes. Authors will be directly reimbursed as a consequence of their works being performed at this Festival. Duologues and group dramatic activity are NOT covered by this agreement and copyright for these items should be sought by performers at the time

of entry.

25. The title and author of all own choice pieces should be uploaded to Play and Perform by the deadline. A copy of own choice pieces must be handed to the adjudicator's steward at the beginning of the class for all except Musical Theatre.

26. For poetry, prose and drama classes, competitors are reminded that due to Performing Rights, no costume or scenery may be used but movement and basic props are allowed. The following props are acceptable - practice skirts, practice trousers, scarves, shawls, headwear, gloves, fans and other hand-held small items. Competitors in these classes are allowed to provide their own prompts. Competitors should NOT wear stage makeup.

27. For musical theatre classes, competitors are reminded that due to Performing Rights, only a suggestion of costume or makeup may be used. Scenery and basic props are permitted if they can be carried on and off the stage by the performer themselves.

28. Unacceptable Language Thresholds. Some works performed often explore adult themes, and contain strong language. However, care should be taken when choosing or devising contemporary pieces. We ask that you present your work in a manner that respects the 'family' orientated nature of the festival and avoids the unnecessary exposure of younger children to inappropriate themes and language. Therefore, all entrants to the speech, drama and musical theatre sections are now asked to confirm whether their performance contains adult language or content upon entry. If you indicate you have potentially contentious language or themes, a representative from WCAF will be in contact to discuss and a copy of the piece as you intend to perform it must be sent prior to the festival. Four letter words (e.g. f***) must be replaced by milder expletives, and such expletives should be used only sparingly. The festival aims to celebrate the best and highest forms of literature and language, and therefore reserves the right to refuse entries that are made up of continuously bad language and/or gratuitous expletives.

ADMISSION

29. The Festival is run by volunteers but, in order to hire the venue and pay professional adjudicators, a charge for admission has to be made. Schools and groups are asked to let spectators know that a charge will be made. A day consists of three 'sessions'. Members of the public will be admitted to spectate at the festival at a charge of:

Adults £5 per session or £10 per day (multi-day discounts available)

Children (under 18) Free

30. Competitors, teachers, conductors and accompanists are admitted free of charge.

31. Programmes covering all days of the Festival will be available priced £5.

32. Spectator tickets and programmes will be available in advance via the WCAF website and on the door on the days of the festival. Please bring your proof of purchase to reception on the day of the festival to receive your entry wristbands.

33. Car parking and disabled access is limited at some venues. Please contact admin@wcaf.org.uk well in advance so that arrangements can be made for disabled access if necessary.

34. For all policies, including Safeguarding, please visit: www.wcaf.org.uk

SPECIAL CLASSES Syllabus

WCAF has special classes across the festival to celebrate and reward high achievement. 25% 'early bird' discount is available until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin:wcaf.org.uk

Please note that ages for the classes below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2025. Winners are expected to be available for the WCAF 75th Anniversary Festival Concert on Saturday 21st March 2026.

Where appropriate, performances in these classes may be accompanied and if so, 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Entrants may also be interested in other classes across the festival with specific prizes:

304 VALE TROPHY - OPEN CLASS FOR PIANO SOLO

930 FESTIVAL PRIZE FOR ACTING

1006 BERTULIS SOLO VERSE SPEAKING CHALLENGE TROPHY

1237/1238/1239 THE MARY MANNION COMPOSITION TROPHY

The above classes are listed in the relevant section, as they include only one discipline. The special classes below cross several disciplines and are intended to encourage and inspire young performers and give opportunities to perform to a supportive audience.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
<p>000 MARIAN BAKER MEMORIAL PRIZE AND CUP</p> <p>Award: Marian Baker Trophy and £45 (providing the winner gains an Honours mark or higher)</p> <p>This prize was donated by the friends and family of the late Marian Baker, a teacher from Kidderminster. Entrants should perform two contrasting pieces on any instrument or voice. A minimum standard of Grade 6 is required.</p>	12 and under	Up to 10 mins	£20.00
<p>001 SPROULE PRIZE & TROPHY FOR SPEECH, DRAMA AND MUSIC UP TO 15 YEARS</p> <p>Award: 199 Sproule Trophy and £50 (providing the winner gains an Honours mark or higher)</p> <p>Entrants are required to perform either a poem or an acted scene AND a song or a piece of music on any instrument of the candidate's choice.</p>	15 and under	Up to 10 mins	£20.00
<p>002 WILLIAM LEWIS RECITAL PRIZE AND SALVER</p> <p>Award: 40 The William Lewis Salver & £100 (providing the winner gains an Honours mark or higher)</p> <p>Donated by the parents and friends of the late William Lewis of Stourport. An interesting, varied programme of two or more contrasting pieces for any instrument or voice should be presented, choice of which will be taken into account in adjudication.</p>	Any	Up to 15 mins	£26.67

CHOIRS Syllabus

We welcome all choirs of any age, ability or experience to come and take part in WCAF, singing any style of music. There are both non-competitive and competitive performance opportunities. The choral sections take place on Saturday 7th March 2026. There will also be the opportunity for one of our adjudicators to visit local schools to hear your performances if it is not possible to attend the festival. Please email: admin@wcaf.org.uk for further details.

****ENTRY FOR ALL CHOIRS IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 2025!**** 25% 'early bird' discount is also available on all other entries until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin@wcaf.org.uk

Up to 2 contrasting pieces should be performed within the time limit for the class (including the introduction and breaks between pieces). Different pieces must be played or performed for each entry in this section. Performances in these classes may be accompanied. If you choose to use a backing track rather than a live accompanist, the backing track must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Any backing track must not contain vocals and should be purely instrumental. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Categories in the choral sections this year:

Large choirs

Small choirs

Non-competitive choirs

We are pleased to announce that in addition to the trophies for winning an individual class, three Worcestershire Choir of the Year trophies will be available this year. There will be three categories - Junior (any choir in categories 1300, 1301, 1302, 1308, 1310 or 1316), Senior (any choir in categories 1303, 1304, 1305, 1311, 1312, 1313 or 1317) and Adult (1306, 1307, 1314, 1315 or 1318). The award will be made at the adjudicator's discretion. Each trophy will be accompanied by a prize of £50. Trophy winners must get a distinction or honours mark and will be invited to sing at the Festival Concert on Saturday 21st March 2026.

Ensembles made up of exactly the same performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and/or the open class in this section. Please ensure that the age of the eldest performer on 1st September 2025 is given in all except Open Adult classes. Conductors of any age are permitted.

Ensembles entering the Open Adult classes may include performers under the age of 18 but the majority of performers must be over 18. This will enable classes to be split fairly if there are too many entries. Individual performers may perform as part of more than one ensemble. Ensembles may also wish to enter the small or large ensemble classes, found in the general classes section.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE AGES STATED ARE ON THE 1st SEPTEMBER 2025, TO ALIGN WITH THE ACADEMIC YEAR. Previous entrants may notice that the age groups have been recently updated across WCAF to align with school years. The ages are also included but please be aware this refers to the age of the individual on 1st September 2025. Please ensure that the number of singers and the minimum and maximum ages of singers in your choir are given (if applicable) when making the entry. If a large number of entries is received this information will enable classes to be split as fairly as possible, by size of the choir and/or by age. If you have any queries at all about your choir entry, please do not hesitate to drop us a line: admin@wcaf.org.uk

Worcestershire Choir of the Year

Up to 2 contrasting pieces (own choice) should be performed within the time limit for the class (including the introduction and breaks between pieces). Choirs may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest in the choir on 1st September 2025 and/or the open class in this section. Different pieces must be played or performed for each entry in the choir section. Individual performers may perform as part of more than one choir. The age groups are approximate and an indication of school years is given. The maximum number of singers performing in each choir cannot be exceeded.

Performances in these classes may, but do not have to be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is always preferred. If you choose to use a backing track, it must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Any backing track must not contain vocals. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Full details of the piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the name and composer of the piece by 16th January 2026 at the latest.

Large Choirs

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1300 LARGE CHOIRS - School year 2 and under Group of a minimum of 15 people	6 and under	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group
1301 LARGE CHOIRS - School year 4 and under Award: 002 - WCAF Cup Group of a minimum of 15 people	8 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1302 LARGE CHOIRS - School year 6 and under Group of a minimum of 15 people	10 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1303 LARGE CHOIRS - School year 8 and under Group of a minimum of 15 people	12 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1304 LARGE CHOIRS - School year 11 and under Award: 005 - Senior FC Music Cup Group of a minimum of 15 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1305 LARGE CHOIRS - School year 13 and under Award: 006 - Helene Cass Cup Group of a minimum of 15 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1306 OPEN CLASS FOR LARGE CHOIRS Award: 018 - Worcestershire Orchestra Society Cup Group of a minimum of 15 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
1307 OPEN CLASS FOR LARGE CHOIRS - Adult Award: 100 - Royal Cup Group of a minimum of 15 people	18 and over	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group

Small Choirs

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1308 SMALL CHOIRS - School year 2 and under Group of 3 to 15 people	6 and under	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1309 SMALL CHOIRS - School year 4 and under Group of 3 to 15 people	8 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1310 SMALL CHOIRS - School year 6 and under Award: 121 - WCAF Cup Group of 3 to 15 people	10 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1311 SMALL CHOIRS - School year 8 and under Award: 012 - Parsons Chambers Music Award Group of 3 to 15 people	12 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1312 SMALL CHOIRS - School year 11 and under Group of 3 to 15 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1313 SMALL CHOIRS - School year 13 and under Award: 007 - Gillian Sharpe Award Group of 3 to 10 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1314 OPEN CLASS FOR SMALL CHOIRS Award: 113 - The Waitrose Cup Group of 3 to 15 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
1315 OPEN CLASS FOR SMALL CHOIRS - Adult Group of 3 to 15 people	18 and over	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group

Non-competitive Choirs

Up to 2 contrasting pieces (own choice) should be performed within the time limit for the class (including the introduction and breaks between pieces). Different pieces must be played or performed for each entry in the choir section. Individual performers may perform as part of more than one choir. The age groups are approximate and an indication of school years is given.

Choirs may also wish to enter the competitive choir classes.

Performances in these classes may, but do not have to be, accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is always preferred. If you choose to use a backing track it must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Any backing track must not contain vocals. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Full details of the piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the name and composer of the piece by 16th January 2026 at the latest.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1316 NON-COMPETITIVE CHOIRS - School year 6 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	10 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1317 NON-COMPETITIVE CHOIRS - School year 13 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1318 NON-COMPETITIVE CHOIRS - Open Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group

Class	Age	Time	Fee
<p>1319 WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CLASS FOR CHOIRS Award: WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CLASS Help us to celebrate our 75th Anniversary! Sing any song with 'Diamond' in the title or any song published in 1951 or any song by any artist born in 1951. You could even play a piece by Neil Diamond! Get imaginative, join in and have fun. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries or aren't sure what to perform!</p> <p>We will aim to schedule these performances at a similar time to any other choir classes you are entering. You may also be invited to sing again at our 75th birthday party on Saturday 21st March.</p> Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group

STRING Syllabus

String classes are for all string instruments, including (but not limited to): violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp, guitar and ukulele. These classes are intended to take place on Saturday 7th March 2026 at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester. Solo electric guitar players should enter the rock and pop section. If there are enough entries, we will split the bowed string classes into separate instruments (i.e. violin, cello etc).

All large ensembles are free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin:wcaf.org.uk

Categories in the string section this year:

Bowed string solo

Harp solo

Guitar and ukulele solo

Mixed string ensemble

Guitar or Ukulele ensemble

Non-competitive string solo

Non-competitive string ensemble

Unless otherwise stated, classes are competitive and places will be awarded. Times and dates of all classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. The committee reserves the right to combine and/or separate classes dependent upon the number of entries received.

Performers should introduce their piece(s) at the beginning of their performance. Timings should include introduction and any breaks between pieces. A copy of all pieces must be provided for the adjudicator.

Full details of the piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the name and composer of the piece by 16th January 2026 at the latest.

String Solo

Solo performers of any age may enter only the class most appropriate for their playing standard and the open class for each instrument in each competitive section. Performers may make further entries to the same class if playing more than one instrument and may enter non-competitive classes in addition. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry in the string section. If there are enough entries, we will split classes by instrument.

In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE piece of the performer's own choice is to be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one OR two pieces of the performer's own choice may be performed within the time limit for the class.

Performances in the novice classes may be accompanied. All performances in the beginner, intermediate, advanced and open classes should be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry. If you would prefer to play without accompaniment, please see the unaccompanied classes in the general music section.

In addition, performers may also wish to enter the following classes:

- Performers who are Grade 6 standard or above AND were aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Marian Baker Memorial Prize and Cup class.
- Performers who also love speech and drama and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music.
- Performers of any age who are grade 6 standard or above may also wish to enter the William Lewis Recital Prize and Salver class.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PIECES PERFORMED IN THE STRING SECTION MAY ALSO BE PLAYED IN THE ABOVE CLASSES

The year 2 and under non-competitive section is a perfect opportunity for younger performers who may not have been learning for very long. It will be fun, friendly and supportive and a small prize will be awarded to all entrants.

Bowed String Solo

These classes are for solo bowed string instruments including violin, viola, cello and double bass. Despite the name of the class, all playing techniques are permitted, including pizzicato. If there are enough entries, we will split classes by instrument.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
100 NOVICE BOWED STRING SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
101 BEGINNER BOWED STRING SOLO (Approx. grade 1-3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
102 INTERMEDIATE BOWED STRING SOLO (Approx. grade 4-5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67

Class	Age	Time	Fee
103 ADVANCED BOWED STRING SOLO (Approx. grade 6-8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
104 OPEN CLASS FOR BOWED STRING SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
105 OPEN CLASS FOR BOWED STRING SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Harp Solo

Class	Age	Time	Fee
106 NOVICE HARP SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
107 BEGINNER HARP SOLO (Approx. grade 1-3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
108 INTERMEDIATE HARP SOLO (Approx. grade 4-5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
109 ADVANCED HARP SOLO (Approx. grade 6-8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
110 OPEN CLASS FOR HARP SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
111 OPEN CLASS FOR HARP SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Guitar and Ukulele Solo

These classes are for acoustic instruments. If you would like to perform on an electric instrument, these classes will take place for the first time this year at the Rock and Pop days.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
112 NOVICE ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
113 BEGINNER ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO (Approx. grade 1-3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
114 INTERMEDIATE ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO (Approx. grade 4-5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
115 ADVANCED ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO (Approx. grade 6-8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
116 OPEN CLASS FOR ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
117 OPEN CLASS FOR ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
118 NOVICE UKULELE SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
119 BEGINNER UKULELE SOLO (Approx. grade 1-3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
120 INTERMEDIATE UKULELE SOLO (Approx. grade 4-5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
121 ADVANCED UKULELE SOLO (Approx. grade 6-8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
122 OPEN CLASS FOR UKULELE SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
123 OPEN CLASS FOR UKULELE SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

String Ensemble

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES IS FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER****

String ensembles may contain any combination of string instruments and percussion. Up to 2 contrasting pieces should be performed within the time limit for the class (including the introduction and breaks within pieces). Different pieces must be played or performed for each entry.

The age ranges for groups/ensembles align with school years. The ages are also included but please be aware this refers to the age of the individual on the 1st September 2025. Please ensure that the age of the eldest performer on the 1st September 2025 is given in all except open adult classes. This will enable classes to be split fairly if there are too many entries. Conductors of any age are permitted. Ensembles entering the open adult classes may include performers under the age of 18 but the majority of performers must be over 18. Ensembles may also wish to enter the small or large ensemble classes found in the general classes section.

Individual performers may perform as part of more than one ensemble. However, ensembles made up of exactly the same performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and/or the open class in this section.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is always preferred. If you choose to use a backing track rather than an accompanist, the backing track must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Any backing track must not contain the instrument to be played as part of the ensemble. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Mixed String Ensemble

Mixed string ensembles may include any stringed instruments.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
124 STRING ENSEMBLE - School year 4 and under Group of 3 to 30 people	8 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
125 STRING ENSEMBLE - School year 6 and under Award: 136 - WCAF Cup Group of 3 to 30 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
126 STRING ENSEMBLE - School year 9 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
127 STRING ENSEMBLE - School year 11 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
128 STRING ENSEMBLE - School year 13 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
129 STRING ENSEMBLE - Open Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
130 STRING ENSEMBLE - Open adult Group of a minimum of 3 people	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Guitar or Ukulele Ensemble

Guitar and ukulele ensembles may consist of any type of guitar or ukulele. If electric guitars are to be used, performers must provide their own PAT tested amplifier.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
131 GUITAR OR UKULELE ENSEMBLE - School year 6 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
132 GUITAR OR UKULELE ENSEMBLE - School year 11 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
133 GUITAR OR UKULELE ENSEMBLE - Open Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
134 GUITAR OR UKULELE ENSEMBLE - Open adult Award: 103 - Norman Harker Memorial Cup Group of a minimum of 3 people	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Non-Competitive String Performance

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator, but no places awarded or comparison made between performances. Please note that the ages for the classes below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2025. Class 135 (Non-competitive string solo performance - Year 2 and under) replaces the previous 'Party Piece' class.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and if so, 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry. Performers may play one or more piece(s) within the time limit for the class.

Non-competitive String Solo

Performers may enter with their own choice of piece on any acoustic stringed instrument (including guitar and ukulele). Performers may make more than one entry to these classes if playing more than one instrument. Performers may also enter competitive classes. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

The ages given for the non-competitive sections are simply guidelines.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
135 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING SOLO - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
136 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING SOLO - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
137 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING SOLO - School year 13 and under	17 and under	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
138 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Non-competitive String Ensemble

Ensembles may perform their own choice of piece on any combination of any stringed instrument (including bowed strings, harp, guitar and ukulele). Individual performers may perform as part of more than one ensemble. Ensembles may also wish to enter the competitive ensemble classes. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
139 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING ENSEMBLE - Open Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group

WOODWIND Syllabus

Woodwind classes are for all woodwind instruments, including (but not limited to): recorders, flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and saxophone. These classes are intended to take place on Saturday 7th March 2026 at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester. If there are enough entries, we will split the classes into separate instruments (i.e. flute, recorder etc).

All large ensembles are free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin:wcaf.org.uk

Categories in the woodwind section this year:

Woodwind solo

Woodwind ensemble

Non-competitive woodwind solo

Non-competitive woodwind ensemble

Unless otherwise stated, classes are competitive and places will be awarded. Times and dates of all classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. The committee reserve the right to combine and/or separate classes dependent upon the number of entries.

Performers should introduce their piece(s) at the beginning of their performance. Timings should include introduction and any breaks between pieces. A copy of all pieces must be provided for the adjudicator.

Full details of the piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the name and composer by 16th January 2026 at the latest.

Woodwind Solo

Solo performers of any age may enter only the class most appropriate for their playing standard and the open class for each instrument in each competitive section. Performers may make further entries to the same class if playing more than one instrument and may enter non-competitive classes in addition. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry in the woodwind section. If there are enough entries, we will split classes by instrument.

In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE piece of the performer's own choice is to be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one OR two pieces of the performer's own choice may be performed within the time limit for the class.

Performances in the novice classes may be accompanied. All performances in the beginner, intermediate, advanced and open cases should be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry. If you would prefer to play without accompaniment, please see the unaccompanied classes in the general music section.

In addition, performers may also wish to enter the following special classes:

- Performers who are Grade 6 standard or above AND were aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Marian Baker Memorial Prize and Cup class.
- Performers who also love speech and drama and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music.
- Performers of any age who are grade 6 standard or above may also wish to enter the William Lewis Recital Prize and Salver class.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PIECES PERFORMED IN THE WOODWIND SECTION MAY ALSO BE PLAYED IN THE ABOVE SPECIAL CLASSES

The year 2 and under non-competitive section is a perfect opportunity for younger performers who may not have been learning for very long. It will be fun, friendly and supportive and a small prize will be awarded to all entrants.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
200 NOVICE WOODWIND SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
201 BEGINNER WOODWIND SOLO (Approx. grade 1-3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
202 INTERMEDIATE WOODWIND SOLO (Approx. grade 4-5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
203 ADVANCED WOODWIND SOLO (Approx. grade 6-8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
204 OPEN CLASS FOR WOODWIND SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
205 OPEN CLASS FOR WOODWIND SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Woodwind Ensemble

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES IS FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BY 1st DECEMBER****

Woodwind ensembles may contain any combination of woodwind instruments and percussion. Up to 2 contrasting pieces should be performed within the time limit for the class (including the introduction and breaks within pieces). Different pieces must be played or performed for each entry.

The age ranges for groups/ensembles align with school years. The ages are also included but please be aware this refers to the age of the individual on the 1st September 2025. Please ensure that the age of the eldest performer on the 1st September 2025 is given in all except open adult classes. This will enable classes to be split fairly if there are too many entries. Conductors of any age are permitted. Ensembles entering the open adult classes may include performers under the age of 18 but the majority of performers must be over 18. Ensembles may also wish to enter the small or large ensemble classes found in the general classes section.

Individual performers may perform as part of more than one ensemble. However, ensembles made up of exactly the same performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and/or the open class in this section.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is always preferred. If you choose to use a backing tracking rather than an accompanist, the backing track must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Any backing track must not contain the instrument to be played as part of the ensemble. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
207 WOODWIND ENSEMBLE - School year 4 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	8 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
208 WOODWIND ENSEMBLE - School year 6 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
209 WOODWIND ENSEMBLE - School year 9 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
210 WOODWIND ENSEMBLE - School year 11 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
211 WOODWIND ENSEMBLE - School year 13 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
212 WOODWIND ENSEMBLE - Open Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
213 WOODWIND ENSEMBLE - Open adult Award: 122 - Performance In Music Trophy Group of a minimum of 3 people	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Non-competitive Woodwind Performance

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator, but no places awarded or comparison made between performances. Please note that the ages for the classes below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2025.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and if so, 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry. Performers may play one or more piece(s) within the time limit for the class.

Non-competitive Woodwind Solo

Performers may enter with their own choice of piece on any woodwind instrument (including recorder). Performers may make more than one entry to this class if playing more than one instrument. Performers may also enter competitive classes. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
214 NON-COMPETITIVE WOODWIND SOLO - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
215 NON-COMPETITIVE WOODWIND SOLO - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
216 NON-COMPETITIVE WOODWIND SOLO - School year 13 and under	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
217 NON-COMPETITIVE WOODWIND SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Non-competitive Woodwind Ensemble

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES IS FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BY 1st DECEMBER!****

Ensembles may perform their own choice of piece on any combination of woodwind instruments (including recorder). Individual performers may perform as part of more than one ensemble. Ensembles may also wish to enter the competitive ensemble classes. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
218 NON-COMPETITIVE WOODWIND ENSEMBLE - Open Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group

BRASS Syllabus

Brass classes are for all brass instruments. (This does not include saxophone, as this is classed as a woodwind instrument. Saxophone players may wish to enter the woodwind and/or jazz sections.) These classes are intended to take place on Saturday 7th March 2026 at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester. If we have enough entries, we will split classes by instrument (i.e. trumpet, trombone etc).

All large ensembles are free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin:wcaf.org.uk

Categories in the brass section this year:

Brass solo

Brass ensemble

Non-competitive woodwind solo

Non-competitive brass ensemble

Unless otherwise stated, classes are competitive and places will be awarded. Times and dates of all classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. The committee reserve the right to combine and/or separate classes dependent upon the number of entries received. Non-competitive classes can be found at the end of this section.

Performers should introduce their piece(s) at the beginning of their performance. Timings should include introduction and any breaks between pieces. A copy of all pieces must be provided for the adjudicator.

Full details of the piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the name and composer of the piece by 16th January 2026 at the latest.

Brass Solo

Solo performers of any age may enter only the class most appropriate for their playing standard and the open class for each instrument in each competitive section. However, performers may make further entries to the same class if playing more than one instrument and may enter non-competitive classes in addition. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry in the brass section. If there are enough entries, we will split classes by instrument.

In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE piece of the performer's choice is to be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one OR two pieces of the performer's choice may be performed within the time limit for the class.

Performances in the novice classes may be accompanied. All performances in the beginner, intermediate, advanced and open cases should be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry. If you would prefer to play without accompaniment, please see the unaccompanied classes in the general music section.

In addition, performers may also wish to enter the following special classes:

- Performers who are Grade 6 standard or above AND were aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2026 may also wish to enter the Marian Baker Memorial Prize and Cup class.
- Performers who also love speech and drama and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2026 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music.
- Performers of any age who are grade 6 standard or above may also wish to enter the William Lewis Recital Prize and Salver class.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PIECES PERFORMED IN THE BRASS SECTION MAY ALSO BE PLAYED IN THE ABOVE SPECIAL CLASSES

The year 2 and under non-competitive section is a perfect opportunity for younger performers who may not have been learning for very long. It will be fun, friendly and supportive and a small prize will be awarded to all entrants.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
250 NOVICE BRASS SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
251 BEGINNER BRASS SOLO (Approx. grade 1-3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
252 INTERMEDIATE BRASS SOLO (Approx. grade 4-5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
253 ADVANCED BRASS SOLO (Approx. grade 6-8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
254 OPEN CLASS FOR BRASS SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Brass Ensemble

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES IS FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BY 1st DECEMBER****

Brass ensembles may contain any combination of brass instruments and percussion.

Conductors of any age are permitted.

The age ranges for groups/ensembles align with school years. The ages are also included but please be aware this refers to the age of the individual on the 1st September 2025.

Please ensure that the age of the eldest performer on the 1st September 2025 is given in all except open adult classes. This will enable classes to be split fairly if there are too many entries.

Individual performers may perform as part of more than one ensemble. However, ensembles made up of exactly the same performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and/or the open class in this section.

Ensembles entering the open adult classes may include performers under the age of 18 but the majority of performers must be over 18.

Ensembles may also wish to enter the small or large ensemble classes found in the general classes section.

Up to 2 contrasting pieces should be performed within the time limit for the class (including the introduction and breaks within pieces).

Different pieces must be played or performed for each entry.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is always preferred. If you choose to use a backing track rather than an accompanist, the backing track must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Any backing track must not contain the instrument to be played as part of the ensemble. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
255 BRASS ENSEMBLE - School year 4 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	8 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
256 BRASS ENSEMBLE - School year 6 and under Award: 011 - Worcester City Brass Youth Band Cup Group of a minimum of 3 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
257 BRASS ENSEMBLE - School year 9 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
258 BRASS ENSEMBLE - School year 11 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
259 BRASS ENSEMBLE - School year 13 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
260 BRASS ENSEMBLE - Open Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Class	Age	Time	Fee
261 BRASS ENSEMBLE - Open adult Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Non-competitive Brass Performance

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator, but no places awarded or comparison made between performances. Please note that the ages for the classes below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2025.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and if so, 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry. Performers may play one or more piece(s) within the time limit for the class.

Non-competitive Brass Solo

Performers may enter with their own choice of piece on any brass instrument. Performers may make more than one entry to these classes on different instruments. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
262 NON-COMPETITIVE BRASS SOLO - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
263 NON-COMPETITIVE BRASS SOLO - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
264 NON-COMPETITIVE BRASS SOLO - School year 13 and under	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
265 NON-COMPETITIVE BRASS SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Non-competitive Brass Ensemble

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES MADE UP OF PERFORMERS OF SCHOOL AGE IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 2025!!****

Ensembles may perform their own choice of piece on any combination of brass instrument. Individual performers may perform as part of more than one ensemble. Ensembles may also wish to enter the competitive ensemble classes. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
266 NON-COMPETITIVE BRASS ENSEMBLE - Open Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group

PIANO Syllabus

These classes are intended to take place on Saturday 7th March 2026 at the Royal Grammar School. Times and dates of all classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. The committee reserve the right to combine and/or separate classes dependent upon the number of entries received.

All large ensembles are free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin:wcaf.org.uk

Categories in the piano section this year:

Piano solo (including the Vale Pianos Prize)

Piano duet

Non-competitive piano solo

Non-competitive piano duet

Unless otherwise stated, classes are competitive and places will be awarded. Times and dates of all classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. The committee reserve the right to combine and/or separate classes dependent upon the number of entries received. Non-competitive classes can be found at the end of this section.

Performers should introduce their piece(s) at the beginning of their performance. Timings should include introduction and any breaks between pieces. A copy of all pieces must be provided for the adjudicator. In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE piece is to be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one OR two pieces may be performed within the time limit for the class.

Full details of the piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the name and composer of the piece by 16th January 2026 at the latest.

Piano Solo

Solo performers may enter only the class most appropriate for their playing standard and the open class in this section. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

In addition, performers may wish to enter the following special classes:

- Performers who are Grade 6 standard or above AND were aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Marian Baker Memorial Prize and Cup class.
- Instrumentalists who also love speech and drama and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music.
- Performers who are grade 6 standard or above may also wish to enter the William Lewis Recital Prize and Salver class.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PIECES PERFORMED IN THE PIANO SECTION MAY ALSO BE PLAYED IN THE ABOVE SPECIAL CLASSES

The year 2 and under non-competitive section is a perfect opportunity for younger performers who may not have been learning for very long. It will be fun, friendly and supportive and a small prize will be awarded to all entrants.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
300 NOVICE PIANO SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
301 BEGINNER PIANO SOLO (Approx. grade 1-3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
302 INTERMEDIATE PIANO SOLO (Approx. grade 4-5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
303 ADVANCED PIANO SOLO (Approx. grade 6-8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
304 OPEN CLASS FOR PIANO SOLO The winner of this class will receive the Vale Trophy (kindly donated by Vale Pianos) at the Festival Concert, provided they receive an honours or distinction certificate. This class is open to anyone of any age, but entrants are reminded that the usual standard is grade 8+. In addition, those over the age of 18 may also wish to consider entering the OPEN CLASS FOR PIANO SOLO - ADULT class.	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
305 OPEN CLASS FOR PIANO SOLO - ADULT	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Piano Duet

Please note that the ages for the classes below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2025.

Performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and the open class in this section. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
306 PIANO DUET - Teacher and student This class is open to all ages and abilities, but we will split by approximate standard if we get enough entries.	Any	Up to 8 mins	£15.00 per duo
307 PIANO DUET - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 4 mins	£20.00
308 PIANO DUET - School year 11 and under	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£20.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
309 OPEN CLASS FOR PIANO DUET	Any	Up to 8 mins	£20.00

Non-Competitive Piano Performance

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator, but no places awarded or comparison made between performances. Please note that the ages for the classes below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2025.

Non-competitive Piano Solo

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator but no places awarded or comparison made between performances. Performers may enter with their own choice of piece.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
310 NON-COMPETITIVE PIANO SOLO - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
311 NON-COMPETITIVE PIANO SOLO - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
312 NON-COMPETITIVE PIANO SOLO - School year 13 and under	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
313 NON-COMPETITIVE PIANO SOLO - Adult	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Non-competitive Piano Duet

Performers may choose any piece suitable for their ability. Individual performers may perform as part of more than one duet. There is no age nor ability limit and teacher/pupil duets are welcomed. Different piece(s) must be played for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
314 NON-COMPETITIVE PIANO DUET - OPEN	Any	Up to 4 mins	£20.00

GENERAL MUSIC CLASSES Syllabus

The general music classes are intended to take place on Saturday 7th March 2026 at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester. Performances may include any instrument.

All large ensembles are free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin:wcaf.org.uk

Categories in the general music section this year:

- Unaccompanied solo
- Instrumental duets
- Small music ensemble
- Large music ensemble, band or orchestra
- Non-competitive unaccompanied solo
- Non-competitive instrumental duet
- Non-competitive music ensemble

Unless otherwise stated, classes are competitive and places will be awarded. Times and dates of all classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. The committee reserves the right to combine and/or separate classes dependent upon the number of entries received.

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES MADE UP OF PERFORMERS OF SCHOOL AGE IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 2025!!****

Performers should introduce their piece(s) at the beginning of their performance. Time limits include the introduction and any breaks between pieces. A copy of all pieces must be provided for the adjudicator.

Full details of the piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the name and composer of the piece by 16th January 2026 at the latest.

Unaccompanied Classes

Unaccompanied classes are for any instrument (except piano) performed without accompaniment. Solo performers may enter only the class most appropriate for their playing standard and the open class for each instrument in each competitive section. However, performers may make further entries to the same class if playing more than one instrument and may enter non-competitive classes in addition. Different pieces must be played or performed for each entry in the unaccompanied classes.

In addition, performers may wish to enter the following special classes:

- Performers who are Grade 6 standard or above AND were aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Marian Baker Memorial Prize and Cup class.
- Singers and instrumentalists who also love speech and drama and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music.
- Performers who are grade 6 standard or above may also wish to enter the William Lewis Recital Prize and Salver class.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PIECES PERFORMED IN THE GENERAL MUSIC SECTION MAY ALSO BE PLAYED IN THE ABOVE SPECIAL CLASSES

In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE piece of the performer's choice is to be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one OR two pieces of the performer's choice may be performed within the time limit for the class.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
400 NOVICE UNACCOMPANIED SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
401 BEGINNER UNACCOMPANIED SOLO (Approx. grade 1-3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
402 INTERMEDIATE UNACCOMPANIED SOLO (Approx. grade 4-5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
403 ADVANCED UNACCOMPANIED SOLO (Approx. grade 6-8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
404 OPEN CLASS FOR UNACCOMPANIED SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Instrumental Duets

Own choice of duet for instruments or instrument/voice, with or without piano accompaniment. (This does not include piano or vocal duet - please see the piano and vocal sections for these classes.)

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and if so, 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry. Performers may play one or more piece(s) within the time limit for the class.

In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE piece is to be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one OR two pieces may be performed within the time limit for the class.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
405 INSTRUMENTAL DUET - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 4 mins	£20.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
406 INSTRUMENTAL DUET - School year 11 and under	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£20.00
407 OPEN CLASS FOR INSTRUMENTAL DUET	Any	Up to 8 mins	£20.00

General Music Ensembles

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 2025!!****

General music ensembles may contain any combination of instruments, including (but not exclusively) voice. Any style of music is encouraged in the general music ensemble sections, but ensembles may also wish to consider entry into the Rock and Pop or Jazz sections, where appropriate. Ensembles of only one type of instrument (i.e. strings or woodwind) may also wish to enter the ensemble classes within specific sections of the syllabus.

The age ranges for groups/ensembles align with school years. The ages are also included but please be aware this refers to the age of the individual on 1st September 2025. Please ensure that the age of the eldest performer on 1st September 2025 is given in all except open adult classes. This will enable classes to be split fairly if there are too many entries. Conductors of any age are permitted. Ensembles entering the open adult classes may include performers under the age of 18, but the majority of performers must be over 18.

Individual performers may perform as part of more than one ensemble. However, ensembles made up of exactly the same performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and/or the open class in this section.

Up to 2 contrasting pieces should be performed within the time limit for the class (including the introduction and breaks within pieces). Different pieces must be played or performed for each entry.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is always preferred. If you choose to use a backing track rather than a live accompanist, the backing track must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Any backing track must not contain the instruments to be played as part of the ensemble. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Small Music Ensemble

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 2025!!****

Class	Age	Time	Fee
408 SMALL ENSEMBLE - Novice - Open This competitive class is for ensembles of beginners of any age, playing piece(s) up to approximately grade 1 standard. Group of 3 to 10 people	Any	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group

Class	Age	Time	Fee
409 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 4 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	88 and under	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group
410 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 6 and under Award: 18 Worcestershire Orchestra Society Group of 3 to 10 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
411 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 9 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
412 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 11 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
413 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 13 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
415 SMALL ENSEMBLE - Open Group of 3 to 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
416 SMALL ENSEMBLE - Open adult Group of 3 to 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Large Music Ensemble, Band or Orchestra

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 2025!!****

Class	Age	Time	Fee
417 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - Novice - Open This competitive class is for ensembles of beginners of any age, playing piece(s) up to approximately grade 1 standard. Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group
418 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 2 and under Group of a minimum of 10 people	6 and under	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group
419 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 4 and under Group of a minimum of 10 people	8 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
420 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 6 and under Award: 003 - The David Lee Trophy Group of a minimum of 10 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
421 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 9 and under Group of a minimum of 10 people	13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
422 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 11 and under Group of a minimum of 10 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
423 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 13 and under Group of a minimum of 10 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
424 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - Open Award: 106 - The Jenny Cup Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
425 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - Open adult Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
433 INCLUSIVE MUSIC GROUP - Open Award: 147 - WCAF Cup Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Non-competitive Performance

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator, but no places awarded or comparison made between performances. Performers may play one or more piece(s) within the time limit for the class. Please note that the ages for the classes below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2025.

Non-competitive Unaccompanied Solo

Performers may enter with their own choice of piece on any instrument (except piano) performed without accompaniment. Performers may make more than one entry to these classes on different instruments and may also enter competitive classes. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
426 NON-COMPETITIVE UNACCOMPANIED SOLO - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
427 NON-COMPETITIVE UNACCOMPANIED SOLO - School year 6 and under	11 and under	Up to 4 mins	£8.00
428 NON-COMPETITIVE UNACCOMPANIED SOLO - School year 13 and under	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£10.67
429 NON-COMPETITIVE UNACCOMPANIED SOLO - Open	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Non-competitive Instrumental Duet

Ensembles may perform their own choice of piece on any instruments or instrument/voice, with or without piano accompaniment. (This does not include piano or vocal duet - please see the piano and vocal sections for these classes.) Individual performers may perform as part of more than one duet. Duets may also wish to enter the competitive duet classes. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and if so, 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
430 NON-COMPETITIVE INSTRUMENTAL DUET PERFORMANCE - Open	Any	Up to 8 mins	£20.00

Non-competitive Music Ensembles

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES MADE UP OF PERFORMERS OF SCHOOL AGE IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 2025!!****

Ensembles may perform their own choice of piece on any combination of any instruments, within the time limit. Individual performers may perform as part of more than one ensemble. Ensembles may also wish to enter the competitive ensemble classes. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and if so, 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
431 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSIC SMALL ENSEMBLE - Open Group of 3 to 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
432 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSIC LARGE ENSEMBLE - Open Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
434 WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY MUSIC ENSEMBLES Help us to celebrate our 75th Anniversary! Play any piece with 'Diamond' in the title or any piece published in 1951 or any song by any composer born in 1951. You could even play a piece by Neil Diamond! Get imaginative, join in and have fun. We will aim to schedule these performances at a similar time to any other ensemble classes you may be. You may also be invited to perform again at our 75th birthday party on Saturday 21st March. Group of any size	Any	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
435 WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS Award: WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CLASS Help us to celebrate our 75th Anniversary! Play any piece with 'Diamond' in the title or any piece published in 1951 or any song by any composer born in 1951. You could even play a piece by Neil Diamond! Get imaginative, join in and have fun. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries or aren't sure what to perform! We will aim to schedule these performances at a similar time to any other ensemble classes you may be. You may also be invited to perform again at our 75th birthday party on Saturday 21st March.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£0.00

JAZZ Syllabus

These classes are intended to take place on Saturday 7th March 2026 (subject to confirmation once all entries have been received). Unless otherwise stated, these classes are competitive and places will be awarded. The committee reserve the right to combine and/or separate classes dependent upon the number of entries. If there are enough solo entries, we will split the classes into separate instruments/voice.

All large ensembles are free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin:wcaf.org.uk

Categories in the jazz section this year:

Jazz solo

Jazz ensemble

Non-competitive jazz solo

Non-competitive jazz ensemble

Performers should introduce their piece(s) at the beginning of their performance. Timings should include introduction and any breaks between pieces. A copy of all pieces must be provided for the adjudicator. A formal score might not always be appropriate, but a chord tab or crib sheet for each piece should be provided for the adjudicator instead, clearly indicating the title and composer.

Full details of the piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the name and composer of the piece by 16th January 2026 at the latest.

Jazz Solo

Solo performers may enter only the class most appropriate for their playing standard and the open class for each instrument in each competitive section. However, performers may make further entries to the same class if playing more than one instrument and may enter non-competitive classes in addition. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry in the Jazz section.

In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE piece of the performer's choice is to be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one OR two pieces of the performer's choice may be performed within the time limit for the class.

In addition, performers may also wish to enter the following special classes:

- Performers who are Grade 6 standard or above AND were aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Marian Baker Memorial Prize and Cup class.
- Performers who also love speech and drama and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music.
- Performers of any age who are grade 6 standard or above may also wish to enter the William Lewis Recital Prize and Salver class.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PIECES PERFORMED IN THE JAZZ SECTION MAY ALSO BE PLAYED IN THE ABOVE SPECIAL CLASSES

Performances may be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is always preferred. If you choose to use a backing track rather than a live accompanist, the backing track must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
500 NOVICE JAZZ SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
501 BEGINNER JAZZ SOLO (Approx. grade 1-3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
502 INTERMEDIATE JAZZ SOLO (Approx. grade 4-5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
503 ADVANCED JAZZ SOLO (Approx. grade 6-8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
504 OPEN CLASS FOR JAZZ SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Jazz Ensembles

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES IS FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER****

Jazz ensembles may be made up of any combination of instruments and/or voice(s). Up to 2 contrasting pieces should be performed within the time limit for the class (including the introduction and breaks within pieces). Different pieces must be played or performed for each entry.

The age ranges for groups/ensembles align with school years. The ages are also included but please be aware this refers to the age of the individual on 1st September 2025. Please ensure that the age of the eldest performer on 1st September 2025 is given in all except open adult classes. This will enable classes to be split fairly if there are too many entries. Conductors of any age are permitted. Ensembles entering the open adult classes may include performers under the age of 18, but the majority of performers must be over 18. Ensembles may also wish to enter the small or large ensemble classes found in the general classes section.

Individual performers may perform as part of more than one ensemble. However, ensembles made

up of exactly the same performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and/or the open class in this section.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is always preferred. If you choose to use a backing track rather than a live accompanist, the backing track must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Any backing track must not contain the instruments to be played as part of the ensemble. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
505 JAZZ ENSEMBLE - School year 9 and under Group of any size	13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
506 JAZZ ENSEMBLE - School year 11 and under Group of any size	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
507 JAZZ ENSEMBLE - School year 13 and under Award: 128 - WCAF Cup Group of any size	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
508 JAZZ ENSEMBLE - Open Group of any size	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
509 JAZZ ENSEMBLE - Open adult Group of any size	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Non-competitive Jazz Performance

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator, but no places awarded or comparison made between performances. Performers may play one or more piece(s) within the time limit for the class. Please note that the ages for the classes below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2025.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and if so, 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry. Performers may play one or more piece(s) within the time limit for the class.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
510 NON-COMPETITIVE JAZZ SOLO - Open	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
511 NON-COMPETITIVE JAZZ ENSEMBLE - Open Group of any size	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

VOCAL Syllabus

Vocal classes are for all singers, of any age, ability or experience. There are both non-competitive and competitive opportunities to perform. The Classical, Folk Song and Jazz vocal sections are intended to take place on Saturday 7th March 2026. There are specific sections for songs in the Classical, Folk Song, Jazz, Musical Theatre or Rock & Pop genres so please bear the song choice in mind and check the dates for the appropriate section when making entries and ensure they are in the correct section.

All choirs and large ensembles are free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin:wcaf.org.uk

Singers may also be interested in entering the choral sections (which will take place on 7th March 2026), the musical theatre sections (which will take place on 28th February and 1st March 2026) and the rock and pop sections (which will take place on 8th and 15th March 2026).

Categories in the vocal section this year:

Classical vocal solo

Classical vocal duets

Folk song

Non-competitive vocal solo

Unless otherwise stated, these classes are competitive and places will be awarded. Times and dates of all classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. The committee reserves the right to combine and/or separate classes dependent upon the number of entries.

In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE song should be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one OR two songs may be performed within the time limit for the class. Performers should introduce their piece(s) at the beginning of their performance. Timings should include introduction and any breaks between pieces. A copy of all pieces must be provided for the adjudicator.

Full details of the piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the name and composer of the piece by 16th January 2026 at the latest.

There will also be workshops taking place throughout both the Music day and the Musical Theatre day, alongside the competitive and non-competitive sections. We will ensure that timings work so that workshops do not clash with classes that individuals have entered.

Vocal Solo

Solo performers may enter only the class most appropriate for their standard of singing and the open class for each instrument in each competitive section. Non-competitive classes may also be entered, in addition. Different songs must be performed for each entry in the vocal solo section.

In addition, performers may also wish to enter the following special classes:

- Performers who are Grade 6 standard or above AND were aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Marian Baker Memorial Prize and Cup class.
- Performers who also love speech and drama and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music.
- Performers of any age who are grade 6 standard or above may also wish to enter the William Lewis Recital Prize and Salver class.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PIECES PERFORMED IN THE VOCAL SECTION MAY ALSO BE PLAYED IN THE ABOVE SPECIAL CLASSES

The year 2 and under non-competitive section replaces the previous 'Party Piece' section. This is a perfect opportunity for younger performers who may not have been learning for very long. It will be fun, friendly and supportive and a small prize will be awarded to all entrants.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
600 NOVICE VOCAL SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
601 BEGINNER VOCAL SOLO (Approx. grade 2)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
602 BEGINNER VOCAL SOLO (Approx. grade 3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
603 INTERMEDIATE VOCAL SOLO (Approx. grade 4)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
604 INTERMEDIATE VOCAL SOLO (Approx. grade 5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
605 ADVANCED VOCAL SOLO (Approx. grade 6)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
606 ADVANCED VOCAL SOLO (Approx. grade 7)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
607 ADVANCED VOCAL SOLO (Approx. grade 8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
608 OPEN CLASS FOR VOCAL SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
609 OPEN CLASS FOR VOCAL SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
610 BOY TREBLE SOLO For unchanged voices	14 and under	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
611 OPEN CLASS FOR ORATORIO/SACRED WORK	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
612 OPEN CLASS FOR OPERA	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
613 OPEN CLASS FOR LIEDER The Susan Ellis Lieder Prize will be £50, providing the winner gains a Distinction or Honours certificate.	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Vocal Duets

Performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and the open class in this section. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
619 VOCAL DUET - School year 4 and under	8 and under	Up to 3 mins	£20.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
620 VOCAL DUET - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 4 mins	£20.00
621 VOCAL DUET - School year 9 and under	13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£20.00
622 VOCAL DUET - School year 11 and under	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£20.00
623 OPEN CLASS FOR VOCAL DUET	Any	Up to 8 mins	£20.00

Folk Song

Own choice of folk song, not to include movement, props or costume. In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE song should be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one OR two songs may be performed within this limit. Timings should include introduction and breaks between songs. Competitors may enter only the class most appropriate for their singing standard and the open class in each section.

Performances may be unaccompanied, self-accompanied or accompanied. If accompaniment is used, 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 16th January 2026. Backing tracks should not include any vocals. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

In addition, performers may wish to enter the following special classes:

- Solo singers who are Grade 6 standard or above AND were aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Marian Baker Memorial Prize and Cup class.
- Solo singers who also love speech and drama and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music.
- Singers who are grade 6 standard or above may also wish to enter the William Lewis Recital Prize and Salver class.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
614 NOVICE FOLK SONG SOLO (UP TO APPROX.GRADE 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
615 BEGINNER FOLK SONG SOLO (APPROX. GRADES 1-3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
616 INTERMEDIATE FOLK SONG SOLO (APPROX. GRADES 4-5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
617 ADVANCED FOLK SONG SOLO (APPROX. GRADES 6-8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
618 OPEN CLASS FOR FOLK SONG SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Opera and Operetta

Please note that these sections will take place on Saturday 7th March at the Music day. Own choice of opera or operetta performance.

Please do not worry if you have a very small or very large number of performers in your group. It is likely we will split classes further based upon the size of each group and the ages of the performers. Individual performers may perform as part of more than one group and/or school.

Age guidelines are given for each class and performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and/or the open class in this section. Please note that the ages for the classes below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2025. Please don't hesitate to speak to us if you have any queries about the age groups: admin@wcaf.org.uk. A different piece must be played or performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
634 OPEN CLASS FOR OPERETTA SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£16.00
635 OPEN CLASS FOR OPERETTA DUET	Any	Up to 6 mins	£20.00
636 OPEN CLASS FOR OPERETTA TRIO/QUARTET Group of 3 to 4 people	7 and over	Up to 6 mins	£24.00
637 OPEN CLASS FOR OPERETTA GROUP Group of a minimum of 5 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
638 NON-COMPETITIVE CLASS FOR OPERETTA SOLO - Open	Any	Up to 6 mins	£16.00
639 NON-COMPETITIVE CLASS FOR OPERETTA GROUP - Open Group of any size	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group

Non-competitive Vocal

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator, but no places awarded or comparison made between performances. Performances in these classes may be accompanied and if so, 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry. Performers may sing one or more song(s) within the time limit for the class.

Performers may also enter competitive classes. Different song(s) must be performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
629 NON-COMPETITIVE VOCAL SOLO - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
630 NON-COMPETITIVE VOCAL SOLO - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
631 NON-COMPETITIVE VOCAL SOLO - School year 13 and under	17 and under	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
632 NON-COMPETITIVE VOCAL SOLO - Open	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
633 NON-COMPETITIVE VOCAL DUET - Open	Any	Up to 5 mins	£20.00
640 WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY VOCAL SOLO Award: WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CLASS Help us to celebrate our 75th Anniversary! Sing any song with 'Diamond' in the title or any song published in 1951 or any song by any artist born in 1951. You could even play a piece by Neil Diamond! Get imaginative, join in and have fun. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries or aren't sure what to perform! We will aim to schedule these performances at a similar time to any other vocal classes you may entering. You may also be invited to sing again at our 75th birthday party on Saturday 21st March.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£0.00

ROCK AND POP Syllabus

Once again, we are delighted to be partnering with Worcester's premier popular music venue, The Marr's Bar, for two days of Rock and Pop sections on Sundays 8th and 15th March 2026. We are also developing our partnership with Sunshine Festival following the successful launch of the Sunshine Arts Stage this summer, hosted by WCAF. The Sunshine Arts Stage showcased multiple young artists, promoting a wealth of local talent. Some acts even got to perform on the Main Stage before the headliners! We hope to offer similar exciting opportunities in 2026.

The rock and pop sections are relaxed, fun and exciting performance opportunities, enabling performers to showcase their talents in a professional venue. We welcome bands/groups and both vocal and instrumental soloists. There are competitive and non-competitive opportunities to perform. We love to hear both original work and cover versions.

We are trying to make entering as easy as possible for everyone, so please ensure you answer all the questions as you make the entry. To make an entry, simply go to the PlayandPerform platform and choose whether you will be entering as a soloist or a group (you are more than welcome to do both!) and whether you will be performing your own work or cover versions. Then, once all entries have been received, we will divide entries into sections as fairly as possible using factors such as age, number of performers in the group, type of instruments, choice of songs, and performing experience etc. We will make sure everyone has the chance to perform with their own age group/ability/style of music, wherever possible. Please don't worry - we will make the sections as fair as possible for everyone.

Entry for bands/groups is free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available for soloists until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin@wcaf.org.uk

Please ensure you choose which day you wish to perform. We will then be able to allocate times / sections effectively. This year, the number of entries is limited, so please make your entry as soon as possible. Your entry is not confirmed until payment is received.

You do not have to state the names of the songs/pieces you will be performing at the time of entry (just put TBC) but please make sure these are updated by 16th January 2026 at the latest. Please provide a lyric sheet (including the title and composer) for the adjudicator on the day.

Please remember WCAF is family-friendly, so consider any lyrics and 'keep it clean', folks!

You can choose to perform as many songs as you wish within the time limit. Chosen song(s)/pieces should ideally be performed from memory.

The Marr's Bar will be open to paying spectators during these classes and therefore it is essential that any performer under the age of 18 is accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. ID may be requested. Bring along your supporters and have a fantastic time!

Please do not hesitate to get in contact should you have any queries: admin@wcaf.org.uk

Rock/Pop Solo

Soloists may enter on any instrument or voice. All performances should be introduced by the performer. Any amount of songs can be played within the time limit, but don't worry if you just want to perform one. The time limit includes any introductions and/or speaking between songs.

You may accompany yourself on any instrument, or may bring an accompanist if you choose. If backing tracks are used, they must be uploaded by 16th January 2026 to PlayandPerform. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us: admin@wcaf.org.uk

Class	Age	Time	Fee
700 ROCK/POP SOLO - ORIGINALS Any instrument or voice. Originals only - cover versions must not be included.	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
701 ROCK/POP SOLO - COVER VERSIONS Any instrument or voice. Cover versions only.	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
702 NON-COMPETITIVE ROCK AND POP SOLO Any instrument or voice. Simply perform your own songs and/or cover versions to a supportive audience. No place will be given but the adjudicator will give constructive feedback. This is ideal for those with limited experience of public performing.	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Rock/Pop Group

Groups may be made up of any combination of instruments and/or vocalists. Groups can be any size from 2 performers upwards and the overall (rather than individual) performance will be assessed. All performances should be introduced by one of the performers. Any amount of songs can be played within the time limit, but don't worry if you just want to perform one or two. The time limit includes any introductions and/or speaking between songs. Individuals may perform as part of more than one group.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied (for example, if a group is made up only of vocalists) and it is fine for music teachers to accompany a group of students on any instrument or to play as part of the group, if necessary. Backing tracks are permitted but 'live' accompaniment is preferred. If you are using backing tracks, they must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 16th January 2026.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
703 ROCK/POP GROUP - ORIGINALS Originals only - cover versions must not be included. Group of any size	Any	Up to 15 mins	£0.00 per group
704 ROCK/POP GROUP - COVER VERSIONS Cover versions only. Group of any size	Any	Up to 15 mins	£0.00 per group
705 NON-COMPETITIVE ROCK/POP GROUP Award: Non-competitive Simply perform your own songs and/or cover versions to a supportive audience. No place will be given but the adjudicator will give constructive feedback. This is ideal for those with limited experience of public performing. Group of any size	Any	Up to 15 mins	£0.00 per group

DJ

Class	Age	Time	Fee
706 DJ	Any	Up to 10 mins	£13.33
707 WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY ROCK & POP Award: WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CLASS Help us to celebrate our 75th Anniversary! You can perform alone or in a group of any size. Play anything with 'Diamond' in the title or anything that came out in 1951 or anything that was written by someone born in 1951. You could even play a piece by Neil Diamond! Get imaginative, join in and have fun. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries or aren't sure what to perform! Just one piece per entry in this section - it will be fast paced and fun. We will try to make sure you perform it just before or after any other entries you make to make things easy for everyone.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£0.00

MUSICAL THEATRE Syllabus

WCAF Musical Theatre weekend will take place on Saturday 28th February and Sunday 1st March, with exciting professional workshops taking place alongside the competitive and non-competitive sections.

All Musical Theatre ensembles are free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available for solos, duets, trios and quartets until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin:wcaf.org.uk

Categories in the musical theatre section this year:

Musical theatre solo

Musical theatre duet

Musical theatre trio/quartet

Musical theatre group

Non-competitive solos, duets, trios/quartets and groups

Musical theatre workshops

Performers may also be interested in entering the Operetta solos, duets, trios/quartets and groups that will take place on the Music day.

Unless otherwise stated, classes are competitive and places will be awarded. Times and dates of all classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. The committee reserves the right to combine and/or separate classes dependent upon the number of entries received.

Entries in these sections should be songs that are sung by characters in musicals, in films or in plays. They may combine song, spoken dialogue and movement and/or dance to tell a story. The adjudicator will take into account all elements as part of the overall performance, including the suitability of the song for the age and vocal range of the performer.

Please note that in response to feedback, we have changed the description of the age ranges across WCAF to align with school years. The ages are also included, but please be aware this refers to the age of the individual on 1st September 2025. If you have any queries about age categories, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss, as we want to make it as easy as possible to enter.

All performances in these classes should be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 16th January 2026. Any backing track must not contain vocals and should be purely instrumental. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Performers should introduce their song(s) at the beginning of their performance. The introduction should include the performer's name, song title, the show from which the song comes and the name of the character who sings it. More information may be included within the time limit for the class. Timings should include introduction and any breaks between pieces. This year sheet music or a copy of all lyrics do not need to be provided for the adjudicator.

Full details of the piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the name and composer of the piece by 16th January 2026 at the latest.

Scenery and hand-held props may be used, as long as the performer can carry everything on to stage themselves in one attempt. A suggestion of costume (including makeup) may be worn. However, the use of scenery, costume and makeup are optional and will not affect the mark given.

Unacceptable Language Thresholds: Some songs performed explore adult themes and/or contain strong language. Extra care should be taken when choosing or devising contemporary pieces. We ask that you present your work in a manner that respects the 'family' orientated nature of WCAF and avoids the unnecessary exposure of younger children to inappropriate themes and language. WCAF aims to celebrate the best and highest forms of literature and therefore reserves the right to refuse entries that contain bad language. Therefore, all entrants to the speech, drama and musical theatre sections are now asked to confirm whether their performance contains adult language or content upon entry. If you indicate you have potentially contentious language or themes, we will be in contact to discuss. This does not necessarily mean you will not be able to perform the piece - we just want to make sure that we make appropriate arrangements for you to be able to perform to your best.

Musical Theatre Solo

Own choice of musical theatre solo. Age guidelines are given for each class and competitors should enter only the class most appropriate for their age on 1st September 2025 and/or the open class. In addition, solo performers may wish to enter the following classes that can be found in the 'Special Classes' section:

- Performers who are Grade 6 standard or above AND were aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Marian Baker Memorial Prize and Cup class.
- Performers who also love speech and drama and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music.
- Performers of any age who are grade 6 standard or above may also wish to enter the William Lewis Recital Prize and Salver class.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PIECES PERFORMED IN THE MUSICAL THEATRE SECTION MAY ALSO BE PERFORMED IN THE ABOVE SPECIAL CLASSES

The year 2 and under non-competitive section provides perfect opportunities for younger performers who may not have been learning for very long. It will be fun, friendly and supportive and a small prize will be awarded to all entrants.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
800 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
801 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 3	7	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
802 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 4	8	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
803 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 5	9	Up to 3 mins	£9.33
804 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 6	10	Up to 3 mins	£9.33
805 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 7	11	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
806 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 8	12	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
807 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 9	13	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
808 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 10	14	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
809 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 11	15	Up to 5 mins	£13.33

Class	Age	Time	Fee
810 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 12	16	Up to 5 mins	£13.33
811 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 13	17	Up to 5 mins	£13.33
812 OPEN CLASS FOR MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£16.00
813 OPEN CLASS FOR MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 6 mins	£16.00

Workshops

Musical Theatre Solo

Own choice of musical theatre solo. Age guidelines are given for each class and competitors should enter only the class most appropriate for their age on 1st September 2025 and/or the open class. In addition, solo performers may wish to enter the following classes that can be found in the 'Special Classes' section:

- Performers who are Grade 6 standard or above AND were aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Marian Baker Memorial Prize and Cup class.
- Performers who also love speech and drama and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music.
- Performers of any age who are grade 6 standard or above may also wish to enter the William Lewis Recital Prize and Salver class.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PIECES PERFORMED IN THE MUSICAL THEATRE SECTION MAY ALSO BE PERFORMED IN THE ABOVE SPECIAL CLASSES

The year 2 and under non-competitive section provides perfect opportunities for younger performers who may not have been learning for very long. It will be fun, friendly and supportive and a small prize will be awarded to all entrants.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
844 MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - INCLUSIVE This class is open to anyone who may have additional needs. Please contact us to discuss how we can accommodate you in the best way.	Any	Up to 3 mins	£6.00

Musical Theatre Duet

Own choice of musical theatre duet. Duets made up of exactly the same performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and/or the open class in this section. Individuals may be part of more than one duet with different partners. A different song must be performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
814 MUSICAL THEATRE DUET - School year 4 and under Oldest performer in the duet must be aged 7 or 8 on 1st September 2025.	8 and under	Up to 3.5 mins	£20.00
815 MUSICAL THEATRE DUET - School year 6 and under Oldest performer in the duet must be aged 9 or 10 on 1st September 2025.	10 and under	Up to 3.5 mins	£20.00
816 MUSICAL THEATRE DUET - School year 9 and under Oldest performer in the duet must be aged 12 or 13 on 1st September 2025.	Between 7 and 13	Up to 4 mins	£20.00
817 MUSICAL THEATRE DUET - School year 11 and under Oldest performer in the duet must be aged 14 or 15 on 1st September 2025.	Between 7 and 15	Up to 4 mins	£20.00
818 MUSICAL THEATRE DUET - School year 13 and under Oldest performer in the duet must be aged 16 or 17 on 1st September 2025.	Between 7 and 17	Up to 5 mins	£20.00
819 OPEN CLASS FOR MUSICAL THEATRE DUET	7 and over	Up to 6 mins	£20.00

Musical Theatre Trio/Quartet

Own choice of musical theatre trio or quartet, as appropriate. Trios/quartets made up of exactly the same performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and/or the open class in this section. Individuals may be part of more than one ensemble. A different song must be performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
820 MUSICAL THEATRE TRIO/QUARTET - School year 4 and under Oldest performer in the duet must be aged 7 or 8 on 1st September 2025. Group of 3 to 4 people	8 and under	Up to 3.5 mins	£24.00
821 MUSICAL THEATRE TRIO/QUARTET - School year 6 and under Oldest performer in the group must be aged 9 or 10 on 1st September 2025. Group of 3 to 4 people	10 and under	Up to 3.5 mins	£24.00
822 MUSICAL THEATRE TRIO/QUARTET - School year 9 and under Oldest performer in the group must be aged 12 or 13 on 1st September 2025. Group of 3 to 4 people	Between 7 and 13	Up to 4 mins	£24.00
823 MUSICAL THEATRE TRIO/QUARTET - School year 11 and under Oldest performer in the group must be aged between 13 & 15 on 1st September 2025. Group of 3 to 4 people	Between 7 and 15	Up to 4 mins	£24.00
824 OPEN CLASS FOR MUSICAL THEATRE TRIO/QUARTET Group of 3 to 4 people	7 and over	Up to 6 mins	£24.00

Musical Theatre Group

Own choice of musical theatre group performance. Please do not worry if you have a very small or very large number of performers in your group. It is likely we will split the class further based upon the size of each group and the ages of the performers. Individual performers may perform as part of more than one group and/or school.

Age guidelines are given for each class. Groups made up of exactly the same performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and/or the open class in this section. Please ensure that the age of the eldest performer on 1st September 2025 is given in all except Open Adult classes. Ensembles entering the Open Adult classes may include performers under the age of 18, but the majority of performers must be over 18. This will enable classes to be split fairly if there are too many entries.

Please don't hesitate to speak to us if you have any queries about the age groups: admin@wcaf.org.uk. A different piece must be played or performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
825 MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP - School year 6 and under Award: 133 - WCAF Trophy Group of a minimum of 5 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
826 MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP - School year 9 and under Award: 081 - Performance in Music Group of a minimum of 5 people	13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
827 MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP - School year 11 and under Award: 181 - WCAF Cup Group of a minimum of 5 people	15 and under	Up to 7 mins	£0.00 per group
828 MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP - School year 13 and under Group of a minimum of 5 people	17 and under	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Class	Age	Time	Fee
829 OPEN CLASS FOR MUSICAL THEATRE GROUPS Award: 112 - Parkinson Wright Cup Group of a minimum of 5 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
830 OPEN CLASS FOR MUSICAL THEATRE GROUPS - Adult Award: 028 - W.O.S. The Hanbury Cup Group of a minimum of 5 people	18 and over	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group

Musical Theatre (Non-competitive)

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator, but no places awarded or comparison made between performances.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
836 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 2 and under Award: Each performer receives a small bag of sweets	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
837 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 6 and under Award: Non-competitive	Between 7 and 10	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
838 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 9 and under Award: Non-competitive	Between 9 and 13	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
839 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - School year 13 and under Award: Non-competitive	Between 13 and 17	Up to 5 mins	£13.33
840 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO - Open Award: Non-competitive	17 and over	Up to 6 mins	£16.00
841 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSICAL THEATRE DUET/TRIO/QUARTET - Open Award: Non-competitive Group of 2 to 4 people	7 and over	Up to 6 mins	£20.00
842 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP - Open Award: Non-competitive Group of a minimum of 5 people	7 and over	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group

Musical Theatre Workshops

Come and join us for one of our Musical Theatre workshops, each one led by a West End star! We are excited to be partnering with West End Theatre Workshops to offer all entrants a real 'Taste of the West End' in these workshops for all ages and abilities. These workshops are non-competitive and are intended to be great fun and a fabulous experience for everyone. No experience necessary. You will work with a West End professional performer. You will learn original songs, scenes and choreography taken straight from the West End stage production, as well as exploring characters from the show.

Each workshop is aimed at a specific age group and will be themed to a particular musical. The age groups are deliberately flexible, so please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss which workshop will be best for you or the person you are entering on behalf of. *Please note that the ages for the classes below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2025. Age ranges are for guidance purposes only. We reserve the right to combine or separate the workshops dependent on the number of entries.*

Your West End workshop leader will be able to answer all your questions about life on a West End stage! They will also give you a taste of how it feels to rehearse for a professional production, and what they had to do for their audition. You will be a West End star yourself for this workshop and come away feeling confident and inspired.

Parents and supporters are welcome to come back at the end of the session to see what entrants have learned, and for a Q&A with your West End star!

The workshops are open to anyone regardless of experience. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

We will do everything possible to ensure that workshops booked do not clash with any of the other sections that individuals are entered into. However, this means that timings for the workshops will not be available until close to the festival day. Please bear with us on this - it means the day will run as smoothly as possible for everyone.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
831 PRE-JUNIOR MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP - Reception to year 2	Between 4 and 6		£20.00
832 JUNIOR MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP - School years 3-6	Between 7 and 10		£20.00
833 INTERMEDIATE MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP - School years 7-9	Between 11 and 13		£20.00
834 SENIOR MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP - School years 10-13	Between 14 and 17		£20.00
835 ADULT MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP	18 and over		£20.00
843 WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY MUSICAL THEATRE Award: WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CLASS Help us to celebrate our 75th Anniversary! You can perform alone or in a group of any size. Sing any song with 'Diamond' in the title or any piece from a musical that was on stage or a film in 1951 or any song by any composer born in 1951. Get imaginative, join in and have fun. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries or aren't sure what to perform! Solo or	Any		Solo: £0.00 Duo: £0.00 per duo

DRAMA Syllabus

These classes are intended to take place on Saturday 14th March 2026 at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester.

All large groups are free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available for solos and duologues until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin@wcaf.org.uk

Categories in the drama section this year:

Acting Solo

Shakespeare Acting Solo

Acting Duologue

Acted Scene

Devised Drama Solo

Devised Drama Duologue

Improvised Drama Solo

Dramatic Sightreading

Non-Competitive Acting or Devised Drama

Acting Workshops

Performers who are also singers or instrumentalists and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music. Please see the Special Classes section for more details.

Unless otherwise stated, classes are competitive and places will be awarded. Times, dates and venues for all classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. The committee reserve the right to combine and/or separate classes by age or size of group, dependent upon the number of entries received.

Solo performers may enter only one class appropriate for their age on 1st September 2025 and the open class in each of the categories above. Groups of more than one performer (that are made up of exactly the same performers) may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the oldest performer in the group on 1st September 2025 and the open class in each section. However, individuals may perform as part of more than one group as long as they adhere to the age limits. A different piece must be performed for each entry.

Full details of the piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the name and author of the work by 16th January 2026 at the latest. Performers must provide a written copy of their extract for the adjudicator (except for improvisation and sightreading classes).

Please also see essential information for entrants at the end of the drama syllabus.

ACTING

Own choice of excerpt from any published play to be performed from memory. Performers must provide a written copy of their scene or extract for the adjudicator. Performers must provide a brief introduction at the beginning of their performance. This is included in the time limit.

Acting Solo

Own choice of one character only from any published play to be performed from memory.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
928 SOLO ACTING - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
929 SOLO ACTING - School years 3 and 4	Age 7 and 8	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
930 SOLO ACTING - School years 5 and 6	Age 9 and 10	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
931 SOLO ACTING - School years 7 and 8	Age 11 and 12	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
932 SOLO ACTING - School years 9 and 10	Age 13 and 14	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
933 SOLO ACTING - School years 11, 12 and 13	Between 15 and 17	Up to 5 mins	£13.33
934 SOLO ACTING - Open	Any	Up to 6 mins	£16.00
935 SOLO ACTING - Open Adult	18 and over	Up to 6 mins	£16.00
936 SOLO ACTING (COMEDY DRAMA) - Open One humorous character only.	Any	Up to 6 mins	£16.00
937 FESTIVAL PRIZE FOR SOLO ACTING - 20 years and under Award: A prize of £50 will be awarded (providing the winner gains an Honours mark or higher). Programme of acting of three contrasting characters of the performer's own choice.	20 and under	Up to 15 mins	£26.67

Shakespeare Acting Solo

Own choice solo acting from one of Shakespeare's plays to be performed from memory.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
938 SHAKESPEARE SOLO - School years 5 and 6	Age 9 and 10	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
939 SHAKESPEARE SOLO - School years 7 and 8	Age 11 and 12	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
940 SHAKESPEARE SOLO - School years 9 and 10	Age 13 and 14	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
941 SHAKESPEARE SOLO - School years 11, 12 and 13	Between 15 and 17	Up to 5 mins	£13.33
942 SHAKESPEARE SOLO - Open	Any	Up to 6 mins	£16.00
943 SHAKESPEARE SOLO - Open Adult	18 and over	Up to 6 mins	£16.00

Acting Duologue

Own choice of a scene with two characters to be performed from memory. The same pair of performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest in the pair and the open class in this section, but individuals may perform in multiple pairs with different partners as long as they adhere to the age limits. A different piece must be performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
944 DUOLOGUE ACTING - School year 4 and under	8 and under	Up to 3 mins	£13.33
945 DUOLOGUE ACTING - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 3 mins	£13.33
946 DUOLOGUE ACTING - School year 8 and under	12 and under	Up to 4 mins	£16.00
947 DUOLOGUE ACTING - School year 10 and under	14 and under	Up to 4 mins	£16.00
948 DUOLOGUE ACTING - School year 13 and under	17 and under	Up to 5 mins	£18.67
949 DUOLOGUE ACTING - Open	Any	Up to 6 mins	£21.33
950 DUOLOGUE ACTING - Open Adult	18 and over	Up to 6 mins	£21.33

Acted Scene

Own choice of a scene for multiple characters from any play (which may include the works of Shakespeare) or adapted from the dialogue of a published novel to be performed from memory. Groups may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest in the group and the open class in this section, but individuals may perform in multiple groups as long as they adhere to the age limits. A different piece must be performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
921 ACTED SCENE - School year 4 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	8 and under	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
922 ACTED SCENE - School year 6 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	10 and under	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
923 ACTED SCENE - School year 8 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	12 and under	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
924 ACTED SCENE - School year 10 and under Group of a minimum of 3 people	14 and under	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
925 ACTED SCENE - School year 13 and under Award: 010 - WCAF Trophy Group of a minimum of 3 people	17 and under	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
926 ACTED SCENE - Open Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
927 ACTED SCENE - Open Adult Group of a minimum of 3 people	18 and over	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group

DEvised OR IMPROvised DRAMA

Performers are required to devise a prepared scene, inspired by the stimulus for the relevant class, to be performed from memory. Performers must provide a brief introduction at the beginning of their performance. This is included in the time limit.

Devised Drama Solo

Class	Age	Time	Fee
900 DEvised DRAMA SOLO - School years 3 and 4 Please base your devising on the theme: 'The Present'	Age 7 and 8	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
901 DEvised DRAMA SOLO - School years 5 and 6 Please base your devising on the theme: 'Peace'	Age 9 and 10	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
902 DEvised DRAMA SOLO - School years 7 and 8 Please base your devising on the theme: 'More than meets the eye'.	Age 11 and 12	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
903 DEvised DRAMA SOLO - School years 9 and 10 Please base your devising on the theme: 'The Stranger'	Age 13 and 14	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
904 DEvised DRAMA SOLO - School years 11, 12 and 13 Please base your devising on the theme: 'The Future'	Between 15 and 17	Up to 4 mins	£13.33
905 DEvised DRAMA SOLO - Open Please base your devising on a Shakespeare play.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£16.00
906 DEvised DRAMA SOLO - Open Adult Your devising can be based on any stimulus.	18 and over	Up to 5 mins	£16.00

Devised Drama Duologue

The same pair of performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest in the pair and the open class in this section, but individuals may perform in multiple pairs with different partners as long as they adhere to the age limits. A different piece must be performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
907 DEvised DRAMA DUOLOGUE - School year 4 and under Please base your devising on any character or quote from Dr Seuss	8 and under	Up to 3 mins	£13.33
908 DEvised DRAMA DUOLOGUE - School year 6 and under Please base your devising on a fairy tale.	10 and under	Up to 4 mins	£13.33
909 DEvised DRAMA DUOLOGUE - School year 8 and under Please base your devising on the theme of 'Friendship'.	12 and under	Up to 5 mins	£16.00
910 DEvised DRAMA DUOLOGUE - School year 10 and under Please base your devising on a photograph. Please bring the photograph for the adjudicator on the day.	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£16.00
911 DEvised DRAMA DUOLOGUE - School year 13 and under Please base your devising on a contemporary issue.	17 and under	Up to 5 mins	£18.67
912 DEvised DRAMA DUOLOGUE - Open Please base your devising on a theme of your own choice.	Any	Up to 6 mins	£21.33
913 DEvised DRAMA DUOLOGUE - Open Adult Please base your devising on a theme of your own choice.	18 and over	Up to 6 mins	£21.33

Devised Drama Group

Groups may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest in the group and the open class in this section, but individuals may perform in multiple groups as long as they adhere to the age limits. A different piece must be performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
914 GROUP DEVISED DRAMA - School year 4 and under Please base your devising on the theme: 'The Seaside' Group of 3 to 15 people	8 and under	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
915 GROUP DEVISED DRAMA - School year 6 and under Please base your devising on the theme: 'The Excursion'. Group of 3 to 15 people	10 and under	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
916 GROUP DEVISED DRAMA - School year 8 and under Please base your devising on the theme: 'The Woods'. Group of 3 to 15 people	12 and under	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
917 GROUP DEVISED DRAMA - School year 10 and under Please base your devising on the theme of 'Adventure'. Group of 3 to 15 people	14 and under	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
918 GROUP DEVISED DRAMA - School year 13 and under Award: 180 - R Hopkins Cup Please base your devising on your choice of song. Please bring along a copy of the song lyrics for the adjudicator. Group of 3 to 15 people	17 and under	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
919 GROUP DEVISED DRAMA - Open Please base your devising on a topical issue. Group of 3 to 15 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
920 GROUP DEVISED DRAMA - Open Adult Please base your devising on a topical issue. Group of 3 to 15 people	18 and over	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
971 INCLUSIVE CLASS FOR GROUP DEVISED DRAMA Any stimulus may be used. Group of 3 to 30 people	Any	Up to 20 mins	£0.00 per group
972 INCLUSIVE CLASS FOR GROUP DEVISED DANCE Any stimulus may be used. Group of 3 to 30 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group
973 INCLUSIVE CLASS FOR GROUP DEVISED DRAMA AND DANCE Group of 3 to 30 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group

Improvised Drama Solo

The adjudicator will give the same stimulus to each performer. Performers will then have time to create a dramatic scene based on this before they perform to the adjudicator and audience. Performers will be given the stimulus in order of performance to ensure everyone has the same amount of time to prepare and will only be able to watch others once they have performed.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
957 IMPROVISED DRAMA SOLO - School Years 3 and 4	8 and under	Up to 1.5 mins	£8.00
958 IMPROVISED DRAMA SOLO - School Years 5 and 6	10 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
959 IMPROVISED DRAMA SOLO - School Years 7 and 8	12 and under	Up to 2.5 mins	£10.67
960 IMPROVISED DRAMA SOLO - School years 9 and 10	10 and under	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
961 IMPROVISED DRAMA SOLO - School years 11, 12 and 13	Any	Up to 3.5 mins	£13.33

Class	Age	Time	Fee
962 IMPROVISED DRAMA SOLO - Open	Any	Up to 4 mins	£16.00
963 IMPROVISED DRAMA SOLO - Open Adult	18 and over	Up to 4 mins	£16.00

DRAMATIC SIGHTREADING

The adjudicator will give performers a short passage 5 minutes before his/her performance to read and practice their performance. This will be an extract from a play or published monologue. The performer will then give an acted performance while holding the script to read from.

Dramatic Sightreading

Class	Age	Time	Fee
964 DRAMATIC SIGHTREADING SOLO - School Years 3 and 4	8 and under		£8.00
965 DRAMATIC SIGHTREADING SOLO - School years 5 and 6	Age 9 and 10		£8.00
966 DRAMATIC SIGHTREADING SOLO - School years 7 and 8	Age 11 and 12		£10.67
967 DRAMATIC SIGHTREADING SOLO - School years 9 and 10	Age 13 and 14		£10.67
968 DRAMATIC SIGHTREADING SOLO - School years 11, 12 and 13	Between 15 and 17		£13.33
969 DRAMATIC SIGHTREADING SOLO - Open	Any		£16.00
970 DRAMATIC SIGHTREADING SOLO - Open Adult	Any		£16.00

NON-COMPETITIVE DRAMA

Non-Competitive Acting or Devised Drama

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator, but no places awarded or comparison made between performances.

Own choice of excerpt from any published play to be performed from memory. Performers must provide a written copy of their scene or extract for the adjudicator. Providers must provide a brief introduction at the beginning of their performance.

The age groups are fairly wide because these are non-competitive classes. However, if there are lots of entries, we will split the sections by age and/or number of performers.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
974 NON-COMP ACTING OR DEvised DRAMA SOLO - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67

Class	Age	Time	Fee
975 NON-COMP ACTING OR DEvised DRAMA SOLO - School year 3 and 4	Age 7 and 8	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
976 NON-COMP ACTING OR DEvised DRAMA SOLO - School years 5 to 8	Between 9 and 12	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
977 NON-COMP ACTING OR DEvised DRAMA SOLO - School years 9 to 13	Between 13 and 17	Up to 5 mins	£13.33
978 NON-COMP ACTING OR DEvised DRAMA SOLO - Open	Any	Up to 6 mins	£16.00
979 NON-COMP ACTING OR DEvised DRAMA DUOLOGUE - Open	Any	Up to 5 mins	£21.33
980 NON-COMP GROUP DEvised DRAMA OR ACTED SCENE - Open Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group

Acting Workshops

These workshops will take place on Saturday 7th March 2026 when the Music classes are taking place, to reduce clashes with entries in the poetry, prose and drama sections. We will do everything possible to ensure that workshops booked do not clash with any of the music sections that individuals are entered into. However, this means that timings for the workshops will not be available until close to the festival day. Please bear with us on this - it means the day will run as smoothly as possible for everyone.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
981 JUNIOR ACTING WORKSHOP - (Age 7-10) Join the team from Worcester Theatres to explore how to become your favourite characters in this fantastic acting workshop that will last approximately one hour.	Between 7 and 10		£6.67
982 INTERMEDIATE ACTING WORKSHOP (Age 11-13) Join the team from Worcester Theatres to explore taking characters off the script and onto the stage in this fantastic acting workshop that will last approximately one hour.	Between 11 and 13		£6.67
983 ADVANCED ACTING WORKSHOP (Age 14-17) Join the team from Worcester Theatres analysing and embodying characters in this fantastic acting workshop that will last approximately one hour and a half.	Between 14 and 17		£10.00
984 ADULT ACTING WORKSHOP (Age 18+) Join the team from Worcester Theatres to psychoanalyse, personify then perform in this fantastic acting workshop that will last approximately one hour and a half.	18 and over		£10.00
951 WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY ACTING Help us to celebrate our 75th Anniversary! You can perform alone or in a group of any size. Perform any piece with 'Diamond' in the title or about diamonds or anniversaries...or any piece published in 1951 or a piece by a writer born in 1951. Get imaginative, join in and have fun. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries or aren't sure what to perform!	Any	Up to 5 mins	£0.00

Essential information for all drama entrants

Performers are reminded that due to Performing Rights restrictions, neither full costume/makeup nor scenery may be used but movement and basic props are permitted. The following items are acceptable: scarves/shawls, headwear, gloves, fans and other hand-held small items. Mobile phones, kindles, iPads, e-readers and laptops are not permitted unless they are required for the use of music and/or sound effects or as a hand prop.

The Festival has an agreement with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society. This means that entrants do not have to seek copyright permission for any poetry, prose or SOLO dramatic item. Duologues and group dramatic activity are NOT covered by this agreement and copyright for these items should be sought by entrants.

Unacceptable Language Thresholds: Some works performed explore adult themes and/or contain strong language. However, care should be taken when choosing or devising contemporary pieces. We ask that you present your work in a manner that respects the 'family' orientated nature of WCAF

and avoids the unnecessary exposure of younger children to inappropriate themes and language. WCAF aims to celebrate the best and highest forms of literature and language, and therefore reserves the right to refuse entries that are made up of continuously bad language and/or gratuitous expletives. Therefore, all entrants to the speech, drama and musical theatre sections are now asked to confirm whether their performance contains adult language or content upon entry. If you indicate you have potentially contentious language or themes, we will be in contact to discuss. This does not necessarily mean you will not be able to perform the piece - we just want to make sure that we make appropriate arrangements for you to be able to perform to your best.

POETRY Syllabus

These classes are intended to take place on Saturday 14th March 2026 at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester.

All large groups are free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available for solos and duologues until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin:wcaf.org.uk

Categories in the poetry section this year:

Verse Speaking (own choice)

Set Verse Speaking (performers in classes 1000-1002 may be invited to perform again for the Bertulis Solo Verse Speaking Challenge Trophy at the Festival Concert)

Verse Speaking in pairs

Group Dramatised Verse

Sonnet

Non-competitive verse speaking (including Verse Speaking with English as an Additional Language)

Poetry Slam

Performers who are also singers or instrumentalists and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music. Please see the Special Classes section for more details.

Unless otherwise stated, classes are competitive and places will be awarded. Times, dates and venues for all classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. The committee reserve the right to combine and/or separate classes by age or size of group, dependent upon the number of entries received.

Solo performers may enter only one class appropriate for their age on 1st September 2025 and the open class in each section. Groups of more than one performer may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the oldest performer in the group on 1st September 2025 and the open class in each section. However, individuals may perform as part of more than one group as long as they adhere to the age limits. A different piece must be performed for each entry.

Full details of piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the title and poet by 16th January 2026, at the latest. Performers must provide a written copy of their poem or extract for the adjudicator.

Performers must announce the name of the poem and the poet at the start of their performance. Brief context may be given if relevant, but this is included within the time limit. Chosen verse to be performed from memory. No props or costumes are allowed, except for in classes 1020-1024 (Group Dramatised Verse) where movement, sound effects and hand props may be used. Please also see essential information for entrants at the end of the poetry syllabus.

WCAF Poetry Slam

This gives poets of all ages, abilities and experience the opportunity to perform their own poetry and get feedback from a fantastic team of judges and a supportive audience.

The Slam will take place over four rounds. In round one, everyone will perform their own poetry. You will have a 3 minute maximum time slot. You may perform one poem or a few poems in this time but do not go over your 3-minute time limit! You do not have to use up the full 3 minutes. The judges will then score each performance.

If you score enough points to move into round two, the Quarter-Final, you will perform different poetry, again up to 3 minutes maximum.

If you score enough points to head into round three, the Semi-Final, you will perform a third time (again, different poetry) for up to 3 minutes maximum.

If you score enough points to head into round four, the final, you will perform a fourth time for up to 3 minutes maximum. It is up to you whether you perform different poetry or include poems you have already performed in the final.

You will need to enter the slam with enough poems to see you through what could be 3 rounds - if you score enough points! Please also write and upload a short introduction that will be read out to the audience before you come on stage to perform in round one. This can be a biographical note, or something about the poetry you are about to perform, or anything else you'd like to say by way of introduction, comical or serious! Your intro must be up to 30 words maximum, and can be written in either the first or third person.

Can I perform other people's poetry? No. Each poet must perform a different piece or pieces of their own poetry in each round. Do I have to learn my poems or can I read them? You may read your poems or recite them from memory.

Can I use props or music? You are not permitted to use, musical instruments, soundtracks or backing music/sounds. You may use small props if necessary.

Can I perform poetry with 'adult' themes and swearing? Audience members are aware that the event may contain adult language and subject matter. We will not censor poets. Your poems may be serious or comical and on any theme. Poets are permitted to issue a short 'trigger' warning before poems of a sensitive nature. This must be clearly indicated as a trigger warning and will not be included in the three minute time limit. The trigger warning must NOT be part of the poem.

Do I have to be a published poet or a professional performance poet to take part in the Slam? Anyone can take part - from an absolute beginner to a seasoned slammer. All you need is a heart that beats, and a mind that speaks.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1050 WCAF POETRY SLAM - Youth	17 and under	Up to 3 mins	£0.00
1051 WCAF POETRY SLAM - Adult	18 and over	Up to 3 mins	£0.00

Verse Speaking (Own Choice)

Performers may choose any published poem or extract within the time limit.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1007 VERSE SPEAKING - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
1008 VERSE SPEAKING - School years 3 and 4	Age 7 and 8	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1009 VERSE SPEAKING - School years 5 and 6	Age 9 and 10	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1010 VERSE SPEAKING - School years 7 and 8	Age 11 and 12	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
1011 VERSE SPEAKING - School years 9 and 10	Age 13 and 14	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
1012 VERSE SPEAKING - School years 11, 12 and 13 Award: 139 Droitwich Spa Advertiser	Between 15 and 17	Up to 4 mins	£13.33
1013 VERSE SPEAKING - Open	Any	Up to 5 mins	£16.00

Verse Speaking (Set Verse)

Choose the poem that best suits you from the relevant anthology. A short poem is just as likely to do well as a longer one! Performers in classes 1000, 1001 and 1002 may be selected to perform again in the Bertulis Solo Verse Speaking Challenge (date and time to be confirmed).

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1000 SET VERSE SPEAKING - School year 4 and under Any poem or extract from: 'Blue Jelly and Strawberries' by Attie Lime Published by Otter-Barry Books	8 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1001 SET VERSE SPEAKING - School years 5 and 6 Any poem or extract from: 'Evidence of Dragons' by Pie Corbett published by MacMillan	Age 9 and 10	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1002 SET VERSE SPEAKING - School years 7 and 8 Any poem or extract from: 'Centrally Heated Knickers' by Michael Rosen published by Puffin	Age 11 and 12	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
1003 SET VERSE SPEAKING - School years 9 and 10 Any poem or extract from: 'Dark Sky Park' by Philip Gross Published by Otter-Barry Books	Age 13 and 14	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
1004 SET VERSE SPEAKING - School years 11, 12 and 13 Any poem or extract from: 'England Poems from a School' Edited by Kate Clanchy 2018 published by Picador	Between 15 and 17	Up to 4 mins	£13.33
1005 SET VERSE SPEAKING - Open Any poem or extract from: 'The Poetry Pharmacy' by William Seighart	Any	Up to 5 mins	£16.00

Verse Speaking in Pairs

Own choice of a poem to be presented from memory by two performers, with minimal movement. Unison, solo and combination speaking may be used. The same pair of performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest in the pair and the open class in this section, but individuals may perform in multiple pairs with different partners as long as they adhere to the age limits. A different piece must be performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1014 VERSE SPEAKING IN PAIRS - School year 4 and under	8 and under	Up to 3 mins	£20.00
1015 VERSE SPEAKING IN PAIRS - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 3 mins	£20.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1016 VERSE SPEAKING IN PAIRS - School year 8 and under	12 and under	Up to 3 mins	£20.00
1017 VERSE SPEAKING IN PAIRS - School year 10 and under	14 and under	Up to 4 mins	£20.00
1018 VERSE SPEAKING IN PAIRS - School year 13 and under	17 and under	Up to 4 mins	£20.00
1019 VERSE SPEAKING IN PAIRS - Open	Any	Up to 4 mins	£20.00

Group Dramatised Verse

Own choice of poem to be acted out by the group. Unison, solo and combination speaking may all be used, along with movement and sound effects. Hand props may be used. Performers must provide a written copy of their poem or extract for the adjudicator. Performers must also provide a brief spoken introduction at the beginning of their performance. This is included in the time limit.

Groups may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest in the group and the open class in this section, but individuals may perform in multiple groups as long as they adhere to the age limits. A different piece must be performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1020 GROUP DRAMATISED VERSE - School year 4 and under Group of 3 to 15 people	8 and under	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group
1021 GROUP DRAMATISED VERSE - School year 6 and under Award: 092 - Cup for Speech and Drama Group of 3 to 15 people	10 and under	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group
1022 GROUP DRAMATISED VERSE - School year 8 and under Group of 3 to 15 people	12 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
1023 GROUP DRAMATISED VERSE - School year 10 and under Award: 108 - The Evans Cup Group of 3 to 15 people	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
1024 GROUP DRAMATISED VERSE - School year 13 and under Group of 3 to 15 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
1025 OPEN CLASS FOR GROUP DRAMATISED VERSE Award: 142 - WCAF Cup Speech and Drama Group of 3 to 15 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Sonnet

Any poem with the recognised characteristics of a sonnet may be performed - it doesn't have to be Shakespearean! Performers must provide an introduction at the beginning of their performance that will be included in the time limit.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1038 SONNET - School year 6 and under	10 and under		£8.00
1039 SONNET - School years 7 and 8	Age 11 and 12		£10.67
1040 SONNET - School years 9 and 10	Age 13 and 14		£10.67
1041 SONNET - School years 11, 12 and 13	Between 15 and 17		£13.33
1042 OPEN CLASS FOR SONNET	Any		£16.00

Non-Competitive Poetry

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator, but no places awarded or comparison made between performances.

The age groups are fairly wide because these are non-competitive classes. However, if there are lots of entries, we will split the sections by age and/or number of performers.

Verse Speaking (Non-Competitive)

Performers may choose any published poem or extract within the time limit. Please consider whether the passage chosen is suitable for a mixed audience and highlight any potentially contentious themes or language.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1043 NON-COMPETITIVE VERSE SPEAKING SOLO - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
1044 NON-COMPETITIVE VERSE SPEAKING SOLO - School year 4 and under	Age 7 and 8	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1045 NON-COMPETITIVE VERSE SPEAKING SOLO - School year 5 to 8	Between 9 and 12	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1046 NON-COMPETITIVE VERSE SPEAKING SOLO - School years 9 to 13	Between 13 and 17	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
1047 NON-COMPETITIVE VERSE SPEAKING SOLO - OPEN	Any	Up to 5 mins	£13.33
1048 NON-COMPETITIVE VERSE SPEAKING IN PAIRS	Any	Up to 5 mins	£13.33
1049 NON-COMPETITIVE GROUP DRAMATISED VERSE Group of 3 to 15 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group

Verse Speaking With English As An Additional Language

The aim of these non-competitive classes is to give opportunity for experience of verse speaking in public for anyone for whom English is not their first language. You have the choice to either perform in person or to submit a video to be adjudicated online. Please ensure you enter the correct class and submit the video by the deadline, if applicable. We welcome performers from across the world!

Performers must provide a written copy of their own choice piece for the adjudicator. This must be a published poem (or translation) in English. Performers may choose any published poem or extract within the time limit. Please consider whether the passage chosen is suitable for a mixed audience and highlight any potentially contentious themes or language. Performers must provide an introduction at the beginning of their performance.

All entrants will receive a written adjudication and certificate, including constructive comments from the adjudicator.

Verse Speaking With English As An Additional Language (In-person))

These classes will be held in person. If you would rather submit a video to be adjudicated online and not in person, please enter the online class.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1026 VERSE SPEAKING (EAL) - School year 4 and under	8 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1027 VERSE SPEAKING (EAL) - School years 5 and 6	Age 9 and 10	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1028 VERSE SPEAKING (EAL) - School years 7 and 8	Age 11 and 12	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
1029 VERSE SPEAKING (EAL) - School years 9 and 10	Age 13 and 14	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
1030 VERSE SPEAKING (EAL) - School years 11, 12 and 13	Between 15 and 17	Up to 4 mins	£13.33
1031 OPEN CLASS FOR VERSE SPEAKING (EAL)	Any	Up to 5 mins	£16.00

Verse Speaking With English As An Additional Language (Online)

The following classes will be adjudicated virtually from video submissions. A written copy of the piece to be performed should be submitted along with the performance video via Play&Perform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1032 ONLINE: VERSE SPEAKING (EAL) - School year 4 and under	8 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1033 ONLINE: VERSE SPEAKING (EAL) - School years 5 and 6	Age 9 and 10	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1034 ONLINE: VERSE SPEAKING (EAL) - School years 7 and 8	Age 11 and 12	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
1035 ONLINE: VERSE SPEAKING (EAL) - School years 9 and 10	Age 13 and 14	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
1036 ONLINE: VERSE SPEAKING (EAL) - School years 11, 12 and 13	Between 15 and 17	Up to 4 mins	£13.33
1037 ONLINE: OPEN CLASS FOR VERSE SPEAKING (EAL)	Any	Up to 5 mins	£16.00
1052 WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POETRY Help us to celebrate our 75th Anniversary! You can perform alone or in a group of any size. Perform any piece with 'Diamond' in the title or about diamonds or anniversaries...or any piece published in 1951 or a piece by a writer born in 1951. Get imaginative, join in and have fun. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries or aren't sure what to perform! Solo or Group of any size	Any	Up to 5 mins	Solo: £0.00 Group: £0.00 per group

PROSE Syllabus

These classes are intended to take place on Saturday 14th March 2026 at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester.

All large groups are free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available for solos and duologues until 1st December 2025. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin:wcaf.org.uk

Categories in the prose section this year:

Prepared Prose Reading

Sight Reading

Non-competitive prose reading

Unless otherwise stated, classes are competitive and places will be awarded. Times, dates and venues for all classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. The committee reserve the right to combine and/or separate classes by age or size of group, dependent upon the number of entries received.

Solo performers may enter only one class appropriate for their age on 1st September 2025 and the open class in each section. A different piece must be performed for each entry.

Prose passages must be READ, not recited from memory. Full details of piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the title and author by 16th January 2026, at the latest. Performers must provide a written copy of their poem or extract for the adjudicator. Performers must provide a brief introduction at the beginning of their performance. This is included in the time limit. No props or costumes are allowed.

The Festival has an agreement with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society. This means that entrants do not have to seek copyright permission for any poetry, prose or SOLO dramatic item.

Unacceptable Language Thresholds: Some works performed explore adult themes and/or contain strong language. However, care should be taken when choosing or devising contemporary pieces. We ask that you present your work in a manner that respects the 'family' orientated nature of WCAF and avoids the unnecessary exposure of younger children to inappropriate themes and language. WCAF aims to celebrate the best and highest forms of literature and language, and therefore reserves the right to refuse entries that are made up of continuously bad language and/or gratuitous expletives. Therefore, all entrants to the speech, drama and musical theatre sections are now asked to confirm whether their performance contains adult language or content upon entry. If you indicate you have potentially contentious language or themes, we will be in contact to discuss. This does not necessarily mean you will not be able to perform the piece - we just want to make sure that we make appropriate arrangements for you to be able to perform to your best.

Prepared Prose Reading

Performers may choose to prepare and read any continuous extract within the time limit from either the suggested texts or from their favourite book. Each of the suggested texts is by a local author and is stocked by Script Haven.

Please consider whether the passage chosen is suitable for a mixed audience and highlight any potentially contentious themes or language.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1100 PREPARED PROSE READING - School year 2 and under Any passage within the time limit from 'Harry the Donkey - Harry and the Rocket' by Charlie Summer or from your favourite book.	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
1101 PREPARED PROSE READING - School year 3 and 4 Any passage within the time limit from 'The Globbatrotter' by Patricia Sumner or from your favourite book.	Age 7 and 8	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1102 PREPARED PROSE READING - School years 5 and 6 Any passage within the time limit from 'The Game Makers' by Kevin Brooke or from your favourite book.	Age 9 and 10	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1103 PREPARED PROSE READING - School years 7 and 8 Any passage within the time limit from 'Spencer the Super Owl' by Michael Hinton or from your favourite book.	Age 11 and 12	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
1104 PREPARED PROSE READING - School years 9 and 10 Any passage within the time limit from 'Peterkin and the First Dog' by Simon King-Spooner or from your favourite book.	Age 13 and 14	Up to 3 mins	£10.67
1105 PREPARED PROSE READING - School years 11, 12 and 13 Any passage within the time limit from 'The Objectors' by Kevin Brooke or from your favourite book.	Between 15 and 17	Up to 4 mins	£13.33
1106 OPEN CLASS FOR PREPARED PROSE READING Any passage from your favourite book.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£16.00

Sight Reading

Competitors are required to read out loud an age-appropriate passage chosen by the adjudicator. They will be given time to read the passage before the performance.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1107 SIGHT READING - School year 4 and under	8 and under		£8.00
1108 SIGHT READING - School years 5 and 6	Age 9 and 10		£8.00
1109 SIGHT READING - School years 7 and 8	Age 11 and 12		£10.67
1110 SIGHT READING - School years 9 and 10	Age 13 and 14		£10.67
1111 SIGHT READING - School years 11, 12 and 13	Between 15 and 17		£13.33
1112 SIGHT READING - Open	Any		£16.00

Non-Competitive Prose Reading

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator, but no places awarded or comparison made between performances. Please prepare a passage from your favourite book to read within the time limit. It does not have to be as long as the time limit - a shorter passage is absolutely fine.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1113 NON-COMPETITIVE PREPARED PROSE READING - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
1114 NON-COMPETITIVE PREPARED PROSE READING - School year 3 and 4 Any passage from your favourite book.	Age 7 and 8	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
1115 NON-COMPETITIVE PREPARED PROSE READING - School years 5 to 8 Any passage from your favourite book.	Between 9 and 12	Up to 2 mins	£10.67
1116 NON-COMPETITIVE PREPARED PROSE READING - School years 9 to 13 Any passage from your favourite book.	Between 13 and 17	Up to 4 mins	£13.33
1117 NON-COMPETITIVE PROSE READING - OPEN Any passage from your favourite book.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£16.00
1118 NON-COMPETITIVE SIGHTREADING - OPEN	Any		£8.00
1119 WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY PROSE Help us to celebrate our 75th Anniversary! You can perform alone or in a group of any size. Perform any piece with 'Diamond' in the title or about diamonds or anniversaries...or any piece published in 1951 or a piece by a writer born in 1951. Get imaginative, join in and have fun. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries or aren't sure what to perform! Solo or Group of any size	Any		Solo: £0.00 Group: £0.00 per group

ORIGINAL WORK Syllabus

We are pleased to offer great opportunities for anyone who wants to write stories, poems or plays or who composes music or songs. The open sections are for anyone, of any age (including adults!). For younger people of school age, the sections are split by ages equivalent to school year groups. Please note that ages stated below are the age of the performed on 1st September 2025. If you have any queries with regards to which section to enter, please email: admin@wcaf.org.uk for further details. We cannot wait to showcase the best original work.

All entries to the original work classes are free of charge.

Sections this year include:

- Poetry writing
- Story writing
- Playwriting
- Presenting and Public Speaking
- Music and Song Composing
- Creative Writing Workshops

****The WCAF Poetry Slam is back! Perform your own poetry in an exciting and supportive environment. See the Poetry syllabus for details.****

The Creative Writing and Musical Composition classes are free to enter. However, we do have to cover the costs of the adjudicators and prizes, therefore donations are welcomed. Please visit our festival shop: https://playandperform.co.uk/gst/gst_login.php?pn_token=wr

We advise you to make your entry as soon as possible, but poems, stories, plays, presentations and compositions do not need to be uploaded until 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Please ensure they are uploaded by the deadline. If you have any concerns about using the online entry system, please email: admin@wcaf.org.uk and we will do all we can to help. For schools where multiple entries need to be made, please contact us to make things as easy as possible for you.

Entrants will retain all copyright for their story for future use. By entering the competition and submitting their work, entrants agree that their story can be used for marketing purposes. All entries may be displayed at the festival or in other venues and selected entrants may be invited to perform their work at the festival or to submit a video or audio performance to be played at the festival. Entries may be displayed on the WCAF website and/or included as part of anthologies.

Creative Writing

Poetry Writing

We have changed the format of this section this year. Poems this year simply need to be submitted in a written format. There is no need to perform your own poem at the festival or submit a video. Entrants who would like the opportunity to perform their own poetry should see our really exciting Poetry Slam section, which can be found in the Poetry syllabus.

Entrants to the Write Your Own Poem classes should write their own poem on the theme of 'Diamonds' and to submit the written copy. The exception to this is entries to the Open class, which can be on any theme. Poems must be written in English. Submitted poems must not have been published elsewhere and must be the entrant's original, unaided work. The adjudicator will be looking for originality, imagination and the ability to craft the poem in a manner that engages the audience.

These classes are free to enter. However, we do have to cover the costs of the adjudicators and prizes, therefore donations are welcomed. Please visit our festival shop: https://playandperform.co.uk/gst/gst_login.php?pn_token=wr

All written poems must be uploaded to Play&Perform by 11:45pm on 16th January 2026. Typed or handwritten submissions are acceptable, but please ensure that all the words of the poem are clearly visible. Either a pdf or image file can be uploaded. Please ensure that the title of the poem and the author's name are included.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1200 WRITE A POEM - School year 2 and under	6 and under		£0.00
1201 WRITE A POEM - School Year 3	7		£0.00
1202 WRITE A POEM - School Year 4	8		£0.00
1203 WRITE A POEM - School Year 5	9		£0.00
1204 WRITE A POEM - School Year 6	10		£0.00
1205 WRITE A POEM - School Year 7	11		£0.00
1206 WRITE A POEM - School Year 8	12		£0.00
1207 WRITE A POEM - School Year 9	13		£0.00
1208 WRITE A POEM - School Years 10 and 11	Age 14 and 15		£0.00
1209 WRITE A POEM - School Years 12 and 13	Age 16 and 17		£0.00
1210 WRITE A POEM - Open Poems in this class can be on any theme.	Any		£0.00

Short story writing

Entrants to write their own story in approximately 300 words with the title 'Seventy Five'. Stories must be written in English. The exception to this is entries to the Open class, which can be on any theme. The adjudicator will be looking for adherence to the theme (where applicable), originality, imagination and the ability to craft and the story in a manner that engages the audience.

These classes are free to enter. However, we do have to cover the costs of the adjudicators and prizes, therefore donations are welcomed. Please visit our festival shop: https://playandperform.co.uk/gst/gst_login.php?pn_token=wr

All short stories must be uploaded to Play&Perform by 11:45pm on 16th January 2026. Please ensure that the title of the short story, the author's name and the word count are included. Scanned typed or handwritten submissions are acceptable, but please ensure that all the words of the story are clearly visible. A pdf or image file can be uploaded. Submitted stories must not have been published elsewhere and must be the entrant's original, unaided work.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1211 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 2	6 and under		£0.00
1212 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 3	7		£0.00
1213 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 4	8		£0.00
1214 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 5	9		£0.00
1215 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 6	10		£0.00
1216 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 7	11		£0.00
1217 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 8	12		£0.00
1218 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 9	13		£0.00
1219 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 10-11	Age 14 and 15		£0.00
1220 WRITE A SHORT STORY School Years 12 - 13	Age 16 and 17		£0.00
1221 WRITE A SHORT STORY - Open	Any		£0.00

Playwriting

Entrants to write a scene(s) from a play lasting between approximately 5 and 10 minutes, with the theme of 'The Anniversary'. The main language must be English. The adjudicator will be looking for originality, imagination and the ability to craft the storyline and characters in a manner that engages the audience.

These classes are free to enter. However, we do have to cover the costs of the adjudicators and prizes, therefore donations are welcomed. Please visit our festival shop: https://playandperform.co.uk/gst/gst_login.php?pn_token=wr

All scene(s) must be uploaded to Play&Perform by 11:45pm on 16th January 2026. Please ensure that the title of the play and the author's name are included. Scanned, typed or handwritten submissions are acceptable, but please ensure that all the words of the story are clearly visible. A pdf or image file can be uploaded. Submitted scenes must not have been published elsewhere and must be the entrant's original, unaided work.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1222 PLAYWRITING - School year 7 and under	11 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00
1223 PLAYWRITING - School years 8 and 9	Age 12 and 13	Up to 10 mins	£0.00
1224 PLAYWRITING - School years 10 and 11	Age 14 and 15	Up to 10 mins	£0.00
1225 PLAYWRITING - School years 12 and 13	Age 16 and 17	Up to 10 mins	£0.00
1226 PLAYWRITING - Open	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00

Presenting and Public Speaking

These sections give entrants the opportunity to present to an audience on a subject of their choice. Powerpoint or other presentation tools may be used, along with relevant props/objects (these must be able to be carried by the entrant alone). The presentations will be assessed based upon their construction and delivery, the use of visual aids and interaction with the audience. This offers perfect practice and preparation for presentations for EPQ or for Duke of Edinburgh's award.

If using powerpoint or other presentation tools, please upload a copy by 16th January 2026 to PlayandPerform. We will contact you in advance of the day to discuss any specific needs you may have in terms of your presentation.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1231 SOLO PRESENTATION - School year 4 and under	8 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
1232 SOLO PRESENTATION - School years 5 and 6	Age 9 and 10	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
1233 SOLO PRESENTATION - School years 7 and 8	Age 11 and 12	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
1234 SOLO PRESENTATION - School years 9 and 10	Age 13 and 14	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
1235 SOLO PRESENTATION - School years 11 to 13	Between 15 and 17	Up to 5 mins	£13.33
1236 SOLO PRESENTATION - Open	Any	Up to 6 mins	£16.00

Musical Composition

Music and Song Composing

The composing sections are for instrumental and/or song composition. It can be for one instrument/voice or for many. It can be of any length and any style. Electronic music is acceptable.

These classes are free to enter. However, we do have to cover the costs of the adjudicators and prizes, therefore donations are welcomed. Please visit our festival shop: https://playandperform.co.uk/gst/gst_login.php?pn_token=wr

These are competitive classes and places will be awarded. Composers may enter only one class appropriate for their age and the open classes or one/both open classes. A different piece must be submitted for each entry. A written score (either hand written or printed) should be uploaded for the adjudicator, along with an audio or video recording of a performance of the original composition if at all possible. However, lyrics with chords or a graphic score is acceptable as long as it is accompanied by a video or audio recording. 'Live' performance is preferred for the recording, but if this is not possible, then an electronic performance from music software (i.e. Cubase etc) is acceptable. If for any reason you cannot produce a recording, please let us know: admin@wcaf.org.uk We will make allowance if this is not possible.

SCORES AND A RECORDING OF THE COMPOSITION TO BE SUBMITTED ONLINE BY 11:45pm ON 16th JANUARY 2026.

The recording should include an introduction from the composer prior to the performance. Quality of composition, score and performance will all be taken into account by the Adjudicators.

Composers will also perform their compositions at the festival (except in exceptional circumstances, where the submitted recording will be played) and prizes will be awarded.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1237 INSTRUMENTAL OR SONG COMPOSITION - School year 6 and under Award: The Mary Mannion Trophy and a voucher to the value of £15 may be awarded to the winner of classes 1237, 1238 or 1239 at the adjudicator's discretion (providing the winner gains an Honours mark or higher)	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00
1238 INSTRUMENTAL OR SONG COMPOSITION - School year 9 and under Award: The Mary Mannion Trophy and a voucher to the value of £15 may be awarded to the winner of classes 1237, 1238 or 1239 at the adjudicator's discretion (providing the winner gains an Honours mark or higher)	13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00
1239 INSTRUMENTAL OR SONG COMPOSITION - School years 10 and 11 Award: The Mary Mannion Trophy and a voucher to the value of £15 may be awarded to the winner of classes 1237, 1238 or 1239 at the adjudicator's discretion (providing the winner gains an Honours mark or higher)	Age 14 and 15	Up to 6 mins	£0.00
1240 INSTRUMENTAL OR SONG COMPOSITION - School years 12 and 13 Award: The Mary Mannion Trophy and a voucher to the value of £15 may be awarded to the winner of classes 1231, 1232 or 1233 at the adjudicator's discretion, providing they gain a Distinction or Honours certificate.	Age 16 and 17	Up to 7.5 mins	£0.00
1241 OPEN CLASS FOR INSTRUMENTAL COMPOSITION	Any	Up to 20 mins	£0.00
1242 OPEN CLASS FOR SONG COMPOSITION	Any		£0.00

Creative Writing Workshops

The writing workshops are designed to encourage and inspire all aspiring writers. They will be split into age groups and participants will have a lot of fun exploring the themes and ideas in each workshop. They will produce and perform their own work. Family and friends are welcome to spectate if they wish. Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

These classes are free to enter. However, we do have to cover the costs of the adjudicators and prizes, therefore donations are welcomed. Please visit our festival shop: https://playandperform.co.uk/gst/gst_login.php?pn_token=wr

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1227 JUNIOR POETRY WORKSHOP - School year 6 and under	Between 7 and 11		£0.00
1228 SENIOR POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP - School years 7 to 11	Between 11 and 16		£0.00
1229 JUNIOR WRITING WORKSHOP - School years 3-6	Between 7 and 11		£0.00
1230 SENIOR WRITING WORKSHOP - School years 7 to 11	Between 12 and 16		£0.00