

Piano Syllabus

Venues:

Saturday 28 February and 1 March 2026: Brighton Girls, Montpelier Rd, Brighton BN1 3AT

Saturday 14 March 2026: Brighton College, Eastern Rd, Brighton BN2 0AL

Please check the venue listed on your timetable before the event.

Section Secretary: Nicola Grunberg. For queries relating to the syllabus, please contact Tony Purkiss (01273 774730)

The deadline for entries is the close of Wednesday 28 January 2026

Rules

- 1 Age limit: Unless specified, the age limit is 19 years, based on the performer's age on 31 December in the year prior to the Festival. There are several classes open to adults.
- 2 Any piece of music to be played ONLY ONCE in the Festival, in the same year, except when used in the final of the Junior or Senior Championship or in Class 251 Play & Praise Concert.
- 3 Graded Classes - Music chosen for the Graded Classes does not have to be from an exam syllabus and can include any style of music, including jazz, with the exception of Rule 5b - see below. The adjudicator's decision as to the acceptable grading of the performer's chosen piece will in all cases be final. Tony Purkiss (01237 774730) will be happy to give advice on this.
- 4 Time limits. Performers are asked to pay close attention to the time limit for each class. A performance that is over the time limit may not receive a mark in a competitive class.
- 5 Jazz and light music
 - a) Arrangements of pop music and music from shows, films and games will also be accepted in Classes 224, *245-*248.
 - b) An arrangement of the above types of music will be accepted in Graded Classes but only if it is from a current or past syllabus of an established exam board.
- 6 Repeats are discretionary unless Da Capo or Dal Segno is marked.
- 7 A copy of the music to be performed must be brought to the festival for the adjudicator to refer to during the performance. Photocopies are acceptable but will be destroyed after the class.
- 8 Performers are expected to announce the composer and title of the piece(s) they will be playing clearly and audibly at the start of their performance.

9 Please also see rules relating to Junior and Senior Championship on page 7.

10 PLEASE NOTE that Springboard reserves the right not to refund entry fees if an entrant decides to withdraw.

Adjudicator

Richard Deering

Richard has been an adjudicator member of the British and International Federation of Festivals for well over 30 years, adjudicating at an average of 12 festivals a year, including many overseas festivals, as a piano or brass specialist and generalist.

Although no longer active as a performing brass player, he has given piano performances - as soloist and accompanist - in over 90 countries and has held teaching positions in establishments such as London College of Music, Trinity College of Music, Middlesex University, Cambridge University, Auckland University and New York State University. Composers of the calibre of Malcolm Arnold, Malcolm Williamson, Edward Gregson, Edward McGuire, Thomas Wilson, Bernard Stevens, Brian Chapple and Charles Camilleri have written piano works especially for him, and for several years Richard had a close performing relationship with Elisabeth Lutyens.

In 2023 he recorded the entire piano works of Hubert Parry and William Wordsworth, as two separate projects, and these are now available on the Heritage label, while his recording of Lutyens piano music, recorded on her 70th birthday, is due for re-issue.

Richard was also an Adviser to the London Arts Board on contemporary music and jazz. He has also made several other commercial recordings in both UK and Japan. His Federation work included serving on the Central Board of Trustees, Vice-Chair of the Adjudicator's Council and with the administration of the PGCA qualification. He was also one of the presenters at both the Warwick and Leeds BIFF celebratory events in 1996 and 2000 respectively. Currently he is the Chair of Trustees of Croydon Performing Arts Festival and, was honoured, by being elected as a BIFF Fellow in 2012.

AWARDS

ASHLEIGH CUP, awarded to the performer with the highest mark in Baroque classes 222, 230 and 231.

JUNE INGLETON CUP, awarded to the performer with the highest mark in Baroque classes 232 and 233.

SEVENTH ART SONATA CUP, awarded to the performer with the highest mark in sonata classes 234 and 235.

BRIGHTON HAMMOND ORGAN SOCIETY CHALLENGE CUP, awarded to the performer with the highest mark in jazz & light music classes 245, 246, 247.

CHRISTINE PEMBRIDGE CUPS, awarded to the winners of the Junior and Senior Recital classes.

EDWARD PAXTON WHITE MEMORIAL CUP, awarded to the winner of the Junior Championship.

EUROPEAN PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP, awarded to the winner of the Senior Championship.

DORIS WAYMARK CUPS, one for each age-range, awarded at the adjudicators' discretion to those who did not win but who showed outstanding potential.

LISA CHILDS MEMORIAL TROPHY awarded to the highest mark for a duet performance in the

competitive duet classes.

CASH AWARDS are made to the winner of class 222 (under 9 Bach Class), and the winners and runners-up of recital classes 249 and 250, and of the Junior and Senior Championships.

Solo Non-Competitive

200 PREPARATORY - THE TWO OF US - NON-COMPETITIVE

One or two duets from any beginners' piano book. Child to play Primo part. Secondo may be played by teacher, any relative or friend who will not be adjudicated.

Fee £8.00

Up to 1 min.

201 UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 1 - NON-COMPETITIVE

Class sponsored anonymously.

Fee £8.00

19 and under. Up to 1 min.

202 GRADES 2 AND 3 - NON-COMPETITIVE

Fee £8.60

19 and under. Up to 2 mins.

203 GRADES 4 AND 5 - NON-COMPETITIVE

Fee £9.70

19 and under. Up to 3 mins.

204 GRADES 6 AND 7 - NON-COMPETITIVE

Fee £11.50

19 and under. Up to 5 mins.

205 GRADE 8 AND ABOVE - NON-COMPETITIVE

One or two pieces

Sponsored by John Bruzon

Fee £13.00

19 and under. Up to 7 mins.

206 EXTENDED PERFORMANCE - ANY AGE - NON-COMPETITIVE

Any age, amateur or professional. An opportunity to present a SINGLE WORK, OR MOVEMENTS FROM A LONGER WORK, for constructive comments and advice from the adjudicator.

Fee £17.50

Up to 10 mins.

207 NOVICE - NON-COMPETITIVE

Award: Sponsored in memory of Heather Cowl.

This class is for players who have had a maximum of four terms' tuition by the entry date.

Fee £9.70

Age 11 - 15. Up to 3 mins.

208 NOVICE - NON-COMPETITIVE

This class is for players who have had a maximum of four terms' tuition by the entry date.

One or two pieces.

Sponsored in memory of Heather Cowl.

Fee £11.50

Age 16 - 19. Up to 5 mins.

Adult Classes

Classes for amateur performers over 19 years of age. (For definition of "amateur" see our General Rules & Regulations at the bottom of our Home page.) See also also Class 206 Extended Performance.

209 ADULT NOVICE - NON-COMPETITIVE

An opportunity for an adult pianist of up to and including Grade 5 standard to perform one or two pieces for constructive comments and advice from the adjudicator.

Sponsored in memory of Heather Cowl.

Fee £11.50

20 and over. Up to 5 mins.

210 ADULT PERFORMANCE - NON-COMPETITIVE

Award: Sponsored by the Zongora Piano Group.

An opportunity for an adult pianist to perform one or two pieces for constructive comments and advice from the adjudicator.

Fee £14.00

20 and over. Up to 8 mins.

211 ADULT PERFORMANCE - COMPETITIVE

One or two pieces

See also Class 206 EXTENDED PERFORMANCE above.

Fee £14.00

20 and over. Up to 8 mins.

Solo Competitive by Grade

212 UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 1 - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £8.00

19 and under. Up to 1 min.

213 UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 1 - MEMORY - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £8.00

19 and under. Up to 1 min.

214 GRADES 2 AND 3 - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £8.60

19 and under. Up to 2 mins.

215 GRADES 2 AND 3 - MEMORY - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal. Class sponsored by Angela Davis.

Fee £8.60

19 and under. Up to 2 mins.

216 GRADES 4 AND 5 - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £9.70

19 and under. Up to 3 mins.

217 GRADES 4 AND 5 - MEMORY - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £9.70

19 and under. Up to 3 mins.

218 GRADES 6 AND 7 - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £12.00

19 and under. Up to 6 mins.

219 GRADES 6 AND 7 - MEMORY - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £12.00

19 and under. Up to 6 mins.

220 GRADE 8 AND ABOVE - COMPETITIVE

Award: Sponsored by John Bruzon

Fee £13.00

19 and under. Up to 7 mins.

221 GRADE 8 AND ABOVE - MEMORY - COMPETITIVE

Fee £13.00

19 and under. Up to 7 mins.

9 Years and Under - Competitive

The Ashleigh Cup, donated by John Ingleton, will be awarded to the player with the highest mark in classes 222, 230 and 231. The Brighton Hammond Organ Society Challenge Cup will be awarded to the performer selected by the adjudicator from classes 224, 245 and 246.

222 9 YEARS AND UNDER - JS BACH CLASS - COMPETITIVE

Award: A prize of £20 awarded by Eugenia Cheng. The Ashleigh Cup, donated by John Ingleton, to the player with the highest mark in classes 222, 230 and 231.

Work by JS Bach only - excluding the 48 Fugues. All pieces from the Anna Magdalena Notebook will be accepted.

Fee £8.60

9 and under. Up to 2 mins.

223 9 YEARS AND UNDER - SONATINA CLASS - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal.

A movement from any Classical Sonatina. Also acceptable are Mozart K.545, Beethoven Op.49, Nos. 1 and 2 and Haydn Hob. XVI/1 - 14

Fee £10.20

9 and under. Up to 4 mins.

224 9 YEARS AND UNDER - JAZZ & LIGHT MUSIC - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal. The Brighton Hammond Organ Society Challenge Cup will be awarded to the performer with the highest mark in classes 224, 245 and 246.

One piece of fully scored music. Arrangements of pop music and music from shows, films and games are also acceptable.

Fee £8.60

9 and under. Up to 2 mins.

Duets One Piano - Competitive

NOTE: Performers may enter more than once in each class provided they change partners. Two pieces can be played in duet classes if the players change position. The Lisa Childs Memorial Trophy to the highest mark for a duet performance in the competitive duet classes below.

225 DUETS - ONE PIANO UP TO GRADE 3 - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medals. Lisa Childs Memorial Cup to highest mark in classes 225, 226 or 227.

Fee £8.60

Group of 2 people

19 and under. Up to 2 mins.

226 DUETS - ONE PIANO GRADE 4 TO 6 - COMPETITIVE

Award: Lisa Childs Memorial Cup to highest mark in classes 225, 226 or 227.

Fee £10.20

Group of 2 people

19 and under. Up to 4 mins.

227 DUETS - ONE PIANO GRADE 7 AND ABOVE - COMPETITIVE

Award: Lisa Childs Memorial Cup to highest mark in classes 225, 226 or 227.

Fee £12.00

Group of 2 people

19 and under. Up to 6 mins.

Piano Ensemble - Non-Competitive

228 DUETS, TRIOS OR MORE ON ONE PIANO - NON-COMPETITIVE - OPEN

Award: Sponsored by the Springfield Piano Group

Open to two or more players of any age or grade (can include members of the same extended family) on one piano.

Fee £11.50

Group of any size

Up to 5 mins.

229 DUETS FOR TEACHER AND PUPIL - ANY AGE - NON-COMPETITIVE

Open to a pupil with their teacher who may enter more than once provided they change partners.

Fee £11.50

Group of 2 people

Up to 5 mins.

Junior and Senior Piano Championships

ANYONE MAY ENTER any of the championship qualifying classes listed below, but to compete for a chance to qualify for the Final of the Junior or Senior Championship you need to enter at least three classes.

Your three best marks will be added together and, for each championship, the six pianists with the highest totals (minimum 240 marks) will be invited to participate in the Final and play one piece from each of these three classes. (If one of your classes was the Junior or Senior Recital, please choose one piece from your recital programme. If you played two movements in a Bach class please perform both in the Final. If you have any queries, please discuss them with Tony Purkiss (01273 774730). Consideration will be given to platform manner and presentation.

The age range for the Junior Championship is 10 - 14 years and the award for the winner is the Edward Paxton White Memorial cup and £40, with £20 to the runner-up. The Final will be held on Sunday 1 March.

The age range for the Senior Championship is 15 - 19 years and the award for the winner is the European Piano Teachers Association Challenge Cup, and £80, with £40 to the runner-up. Prize money donated by Caroline and Howard Carter. The Final will be held on Saturday 14 March.

The Junior Championship is sponsored by the Finchcocks Charity. All finalists are invited to visit the collection of period keyboard instruments in Tunbridge Wells (www.finchcocks.co.uk).

The Senior Championship is sponsored by, and awards are donated by, Caroline and Howard Carter.

Baroque Period

Cups will be awarded as follows: The Ashleigh Cup, donated by John Ingleton, to the player with the highest mark in classes 222, 230 and 231; the June Ingleton Cup to the performer with the highest mark in classes 232 and 233.

One or two pieces (within the time limit) composed for keyboard by J.S. Bach, Telemann, D. Scarlatti, Rameau or their contemporaries between 1700 and 1770.

230 *BAROQUE (10-12 years) - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal. The Ashleigh Cup, donated by John Ingleton, will be awarded to the player with the highest mark in classes 222, 230 and 231. Sponsored by Eugenia Cheng.

Fee £9.70

Age 10 - 12. Up to 3 mins.

231 *BAROQUE (13-14 years) - COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal. The Ashleigh Cup, donated by John Ingleton, will be awarded to the player with the highest mark in classes 222, 230 and 231. Sponsored by Eugenia Cheng.

Fee £9.70

Age 13 - 14. Up to 3 mins.

232 *BAROQUE (15-19 years) - COMPETITIVE

Award: : The June Ingleton Cup to be awarded to the performer with the highest mark in classes 232 and 233. Sponsored by Eugenia Cheng.

Fee £11.50

Age 15 - 19. Up to 5 mins.

233 *JS BACH PRELUDE & FUGUE (15-19 years) - COMPETITIVE

Award: The June Ingleton Cup to be awarded to the performer with the highest mark in classes 232 and 233. Sponsored by Eugenia Cheng.

Any Prelude & Fugue from The Well-Tempered Clavier, Books I and II.

Fee £14.00

Age 15 - 19. Up to 8 mins.

Classical Period

A movement from a Sonatina or Sonata composed by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven or their contemporaries between 1750 and 1830.

234 * SONATINA AND SONATA CLASS (10-12 years) COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal. The Seventh Art Sonata Cup to be awarded to the performer with the highest mark in classes 234 and 235.

A movement from any Classical Sonatina or Sonata.

Fee £12.00

Age 10 - 12. Up to 6 mins.

235 *SONATINA AND SONATA CLASS (13-14 years) COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal. The Seventh Art Sonata Cup to be awarded to the performer with the highest mark in classes 234 and 235.

A movement from any Classical Sonatina or Sonata.

Fee £16.50

Age 13 - 14. Up to 9 mins.

236 *SONATA CLASS (15-16 years) COMPETITIVE

A movement from any Classical Sonata.

Fee £17.50

Age 15 - 16. Up to 10 mins.

237 *SONATA CLASS (17-19 years) COMPETITIVE

Award: Sponsored by David and Sandra Botibol in memory of Max Gartman.

A movement from any Classical Sonata.

Fee £17.50

Age 17 - 19. Up to 10 mins.

Romantic Period

One piece composed in the Romantic period or style.

238 *ROMANTIC (10-12 years) COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal.

Minimum standard: Grade 3

Fee £10.20

12 and under. Up to 4 mins.

239 *ROMANTIC (13-14 years and under) COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal.

Minimum standard: Grade 4-5

Fee £12.00

Age 13 - 14. Up to 6 mins.

240 *ROMANTIC (15-16 years) COMPETITIVE

Award: Sponsored by John Ingleton

Minimum standard: Grade 6

Fee £14.00

Age 15 - 16. Up to 8 mins.

241 *ROMANTIC (17-19 years) COMPETITIVE

Award: Sponsored by June Ingleton

Minimum standard: Grade 7

Fee £16.50

Age 17 - 19. Up to 9 mins.

Contemporary

One piece composed in the 20th or 21st centuries, not including music allowed under the "jazz and light music" category.

242 *20TH/21ST CENTURY INCLUDING IMPRESSIONISTS (10-12 years) COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £11.50

Age 10 - 14. Up to 5 mins.

243 *20TH/21ST CENTURY INCLUDING IMPRESSIONISTS (13-14 years) COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £11.50

Age 13 - 14. Up to 5 mins.

244 *20TH/21ST CENTURY INCLUDING IMPRESSIONISTS (15-19 years) COMPETITIVE

Award: Sponsored by Peter Gwilliam, Gwyneth Jones and Gabriel Jones.

Fee £13.00

Age 15 - 19. Up to 7 mins.

Jazz and Light Music

The Brighton Hammond Organ Society Challenge Cup will be awarded to the performer with the highest mark in classes 224, 245 and 246.

One or two pieces (within the time limit) of jazz, light music, or arrangements of pop music and music from shows, films and games.

245 *JAZZ & LIGHT MUSIC (10-12 years) COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival Medal. The Brighton Hammond Organ Society Challenge Cup will be awarded to the performer with the highest mark in classes 224, 245 and 246.

Fee £9.70

Age 10 - 12. Up to 3 mins.

246 *JAZZ & LIGHT MUSIC (13-14 years) COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival Medal. The Brighton Hammond Organ Society Challenge Cup will be awarded to the performer with the highest mark in classes 224, 245 and 246.

Fee £10.20

Age 13 - 14. Up to 4 mins.

247 *JAZZ & LIGHT MUSIC (15-16 years) COMPETITIVE

Fee £13.00

Age 15 - 16. Up to 7 mins.

248 *JAZZ & LIGHT MUSIC (17-19 years) COMPETITIVE

Fee £14.00

Age 17 - 19. Up to 8 mins.

Recitals

249 *JUNIOR RECITAL CLASS (14 years and under) COMPETITIVE

Award: First Prize £20 donated by Sachiko Endo; Second Prize £10 donated anonymously; The Christine Pembridge Junior Cup. Class sponsored anonymously.

Performers to select two or three contrasting pieces from any period. Choice of programme will be taken into consideration.

Fee £17.50

14 and under. Up to 10 mins.

250 *SENIOR RECITAL CLASS (15-19 years)

Award: First Prize: £40 donated by Sachiko Endo; Second Prize: £20 donated anonymously; The Christine Pembridge Senior Cup. Sponsored by Anthony Purkiss.

Performers to select two or three contrasting pieces from any period. Choice of programme will be taken into consideration.

Fee £24.00

Age 15 - 19. Up to 15 mins.

Performance opportunity

Any age. One piece. Up to 3.5 minutes.

10 places available. To be held on 22 March. Open to those who have entered another Springboard class, this non-adjudicated class provides an opportunity to perform to and support other pianists. After each piece the other participants will be encouraged to say one thing they most enjoyed about the performance.

The piece performed may also be presented in another class. A section of a piece may be performed to ensure the time limit is adhered to.

251 PLAY & PRAISE CONCERT

Award: Sponsored by Eugenia Cheng.

Any age. One piece.

Fee £0.00

Up to 3.5 mins.

Further information

CHAMBER MUSIC AND ENSEMBLES

Pianists can combine with other instrumentalists and singers to take part in workshops, competitive and non-competitive classes in the Strings, Woodwind & Brass and Singing sections. See relevant syllabuses for full details.