

Strings Syllabus

Springboard 2026 Festival

Venues:

Saturday 7 March: Stanford Avenue Methodist Church. Stanford Avenue, Brighton, BN1 6FD

Sunday 8 March: Brighton Girls Montpelier Rd, Brighton BN1 3AT.

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

Section secretary: Jannet King (jannetking@gmail.com)

The Springboard Strings weekend is open to players of all ages of violin, viola, cello, double bass and harp at all levels. Note that in 2026 we are including the opportunity to play the harp in all our classes.

Please take time to read the rules below to ensure that you enter the appropriate class.

The deadline for entries is the close of 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 may be played only once in the Festival.

3 Music chosen for the graded classes does not have to be from an exam syllabus but the adjudicator's decision as to the acceptable grading of the performer's chosen piece will in all cases be final. The Strings Secretary will be happy to give advice on this.

4 Time limit: 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. Repeats are not required unless Da Capo or Dal Segno is marked.

5 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.

6 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.

7 Accompanists: Unless an arrangement has been made by their teacher, performers must book

and pay for their own accompanist, where needed. Please see <http://www.springboardfestival.co.uk/information/accompanists/> for a list of local accompanists.

8 All performers (excluding accompanists) must be amateurs (someone in full-time or higher education or who does not derive their main income from performance or teaching a string instrument).

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

AWARDS

RECITALS: Class 717: Awards £40/£20; Class 718: Awards £60/£30

CONCERTOS: Classes 719 & 720: Awards £20 & £40

VIOLA PRIZE: An award of £40 to the most promising viola player. Donated by Elliot Corner.

CECIL ARONOWITZ CUP: To celebrate the centenary in 2016 of the birth of one of Britain's most distinguished musicians, the viola player Cecil Aronowitz, his family have much pleasure in presenting a cup in his name to Springboard. This cup is awarded annually by the adjudicator to the most promising string player from all classes.

The winner of the cup will also receive a voucher from The String Zone www.thestringzone.co.uk

THE BRIGHTON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AWARD: Two tickets for the next BPO season to be awarded to two players of orchestral instruments living in Sussex who have taken part in the festival. www.brightonphil.org.uk.

JUNIOR STRINGS SYLLABUS

Saturday 7 March 2026

Beginner Strings Performances

Open to players of violin, viola, cello, double bass & harp. Pupils will receive oral and written feedback from the adjudicator but no mark.

Any style of music is welcome: e.g. classical music, jazz, folk, pop, film, own composition. Pupils may play solo (accompanied or unaccompanied), in duet with their teacher, or in groups with more than one player on the same part.

700 GRADES 1 & 2 NON-COMPETITIVE

Fee £8.60

19 and under. Up to 2 mins.

701 GRADES 3, 4 & 5 NON-COMPETITIVE

Fee £9.70

19 and under. Up to 3 mins.

Competitive Classes

Open to players of violin, viola, cello, double bass & harp. The adjudicator will give oral and written feedback, marks will be assigned and winners announced.

702 GRADES 2 AND 3

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £9.70

19 and under. Up to 3 mins.

703 GRADES 4 & 5

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £10.20

19 and under. Up to 4 mins.

704 JAZZ - GRADE 5 AND BELOW

Award: Festival medal.

A piece in a jazz style. Performances may include improvisation but this is not obligatory.

Fee £10.20

19 and under. Up to 4 mins.

705 SOLO BACH - 14 YEARS & UNDER

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £11.50

14 and under. Up to 5 mins.

706 SONATA - GRADE 5 & BELOW

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £13.00

19 and under. Up to 7 mins.

SENIOR STRINGS SYLLABUS

Sunday 8 March 2026

Advanced Strings Performance

Open to players of violin, viola, cello, double bass & harp. Pupils will receive oral and written feedback from the adjudicator but no mark.

Any style of music is welcome: e.g. classical music, jazz, folk, pop, film, own composition.

707 GRADES 6, 7 & 8 NON-COMPETITIVE

Fee £11.50

19 and under. Up to 5 mins.

Adult Learners - Non-competitive

The following classes are for adult amateur players of violin, viola, cello, double bass & harp. Amateur is defined in Rule 1 of the Festival General Rules and Regulations: "Springboard is a festival for amateur performers. For this purpose, an amateur is defined as one who is in full-time or higher education or is over the age of 22 and does not derive fees from performance or teaching of the subject of the class for which the entry is made. Professionals may only participate as accompanists or conductors or where otherwise specifically stated."

708 ADULT LEARNERS - GRADE 5 AND BELOW

Any piece (or pieces) within the time-limit.

Fee £11.50

19 and over. Up to 5 mins.

709 ADULT LEARNERS - GRADE 6 AND ABOVE

Any piece (or pieces) within the time-limit.

Fee £12.00

19 and over. Up to 6 mins.

710 SOLO BACH

Fee £11.50

19 and over. Up to 5 mins.

711 SONATA

Fee £14.00

19 and over. Up to 8 mins.

Competitive Classes

Open to players of violin, viola, cello, double bass & harp. The adjudicator will give oral and written feedback, marks will be assigned and winners announced.

712 GRADES 6 AND 7

Fee £11.50

19 and under. Up to 5 mins.

713 GRADE 8

Fee £12.00

19 and under. Up to 6 mins.

714 JAZZ - GRADE 6 AND ABOVE

A piece in a jazz style. Performances may include improvisation but this is not obligatory.

Fee £12.00

19 and under. Up to 6 mins.

715 SOLO BACH - 15 TO 19 YEARS

Fee £13.00

Age 15 - 19. Up to 7 mins.

716 SONATA - GRADE 6 AND ABOVE

Fee £14.00

19 and under. Up to 8 mins.

Recitals

Open to players of violin, viola, cello, double bass & harp. Performers should select two or three pieces, contrasting in style or period, and prepare a short verbal introduction to the works they are going to perform. Choice of programme will be taken into consideration.

717 RECITAL CLASS I - UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 8

Award: Winner £40 and Runner-up £20 awarded by Julie Baldwin. Class sponsored by the Ellis family.

Fee £19.50

19 and under. Up to 12 mins.

718 RECITAL CLASS II - POST-GRADE 8

Award: Corin Long Cup; Winner £60 and Runner-up £30. Class sponsored by the Ellis family..

Fee £24.00

19 and under. Up to 15 mins.

Concertos

Open to players of violin, viola, cello, double bass & harp. One or more movements of a concerto or a piece with orchestra of similar stature. Orchestral parts must be played as a piano arrangement. Only the performance of the soloist will be adjudicated.

719 CONCERTO - 14 YEARS AND UNDER

Award: Winner: £20 awarded by Gail Greaves.

Fee £19.50

14 and under. Up to 12 mins.

720 CONCERTO - 15 TO 19 YEARS

Award: Winner: £40 awarded by Jannet King.

Fee £24.00

Age 15 - 19. Up to 15 mins.

Duets and Ensembles: Non-Competitive

Duets should involve two string instruments, with or without a piano accompaniment. Single or double concertos allowed.

Ensembles should involve three or more performers (maximum 12), at least four of whom must be string players. Ideally, there should be one person per part.

Ideally, all players should conform to the stipulated age limit, but please email the Section Secretary if this presents a problem.

The performance of the duet or ensemble will be adjudicated based on the standard of ensemble playing and on evidence of listening to each other, rather than on the difficulty of the music performed.

721 DUET

Fee £10.20

Group of 2 people

Up to 4 mins.

722 JUNIOR ENSEMBLE

Fee £17.50

Group of 3 to 12 people

14 and under. Up to 10 mins.

723 SENIOR ENSEMBLE

Fee £19.50

Group of 3 to 12 people

15 and over. Up to 12 mins.