TUNBRIDGE WELLS ARTS FESTIVAL

PIANO Syllabus

Adjudicator

Joseph Tong

MA(Cantab),DipRAM,LRAM,ARAM

Joseph Tong has established a reputation as one of the most versatile and imaginative pianists of his generation. Much in demand as a soloist, duo pianist and chamber musician, Joseph made his Wigmore Hall recital debut in 1997 as winner of the Maisie Lewis Young Artists Award and now gives regular recitals throughout the UK and Europe.

Joseph has been particularly associated with the piano music of Jean Sibelius, having recorded three discs of a complete cycle for the Quartz label to critical acclaim and performing regularly in Finland over recent years. He has been invited to play at the Korpo Sibelius Festival and has given several recitals on the composer's original Steinway at Ainola. Joseph has also performed at Camerata Hall, Helsinki, Hämeenlinna City Hall, the Sibelius Museum in Turku and the Joensuu Music Festival. To mark the 150th anniversary of Sibelius's birth in 2015, he gave an all-Sibelius recital at St John's Smith Square in London together with a live broadcast on BBC Radio 3's In Tune. Other recent projects have included a new commission from the British composer David Matthews, a set of Five Trees which Joseph premiered at the Three Choirs Festival in 2022.

Joseph has made several critically acclaimed recordings as a soloist and chamber musician including a disc of Schumann, released in 2019 on the Quartz label, which was awarded Instrumental Choice in BBC Music Magazine. Much in demand as a collaborative pianist, his recording of Sibelius works for violin and piano with the British violinist Fenella Humphreys on Resonus Classics was selected as 'Chamber Choice' in BBC Music Magazine and featured on BBC Radio 3's Record Review. Joseph has also made piano duet recordings of Schubert, Debussy and McCabe in his longstanding duo with Waka Hasegawa, with whom he performed at Wigmore Hall in London, Music Festivals including Cheltenham, Buxton and York as well as in Japan and USA.

In 2022 he returned to Wigmore Hall to give a solo recital featuring Schubert's Wanderer Fantasy, marking 200 years since the work was written. Other recent highlights have included solo recitals in Spain and Germany including the Sendesaal in Bremen, St George's Bristol, Hatchlands in Surrey, Newport Cathedral and the Presteigne Festival.

Joseph was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM) in 2008 and is a visiting teacher at Junior Academy (RAM) in London, Wells Cathedral School and Coordinator of the Wells International Piano Summer School. He is an adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals and has been invited to judge piano prizes at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

GRADED SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
100 Piano Solo Beginners Year 2 & under One or two very easy pieces which should not be beyond Initial Grade standard in complexity. Initial Grade examination music should not be played. Performers may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
101 Piano Solo Beginners Year 3-4 One or two very easy pieces which should not be beyond Initial Grade standard in complexity. Initial Grade examination music should not be played. Performers may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 3 to Year 4	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
102 Piano Solo Beginners Year 5-8 One or two very easy pieces which should not be beyond Initial Grade standard in complexity. Initial Grade examination music should not be played. Performers may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 5 to Year 8	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
103 Piano Solo Initial Grade ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Initial Grade syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 1 by the time of the festival, and may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
104 Piano Solo Grade 1 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 1 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 2 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
105 Piano Solo Grade 2 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 2 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 3 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
106 Piano Solo Grade 3 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 3 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 4 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.50
107 Piano Solo Grade 4 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 4 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 5 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
108 Piano Solo Grade 5 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 5 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 6 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
109 Piano Solo Grades 6-7 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 6 or 7 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 7 or 8 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.50
110 Advanced Piano Performance One or more items from the same work e.g. movements from a sonata or dances from a suite. A minimum standard of approximately Grade 8 is expected. Grade 8 examination music may be performed.	Year 13 and under	Up to 10 mins	£14.00

AGE GROUP SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
111 Piano Solo Year 2 & under One or two pieces at any grade/level.	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
112 Piano Solo Year 3 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 3 only	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
113 Piano Solo Year 4 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 4 only	Up to 3 mins	£8.50
114 Piano Solo Year 5 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 5 only	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
115 Piano Solo Year 6 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 6 only	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
116 Non-Competitive Piano Solo or Duet Year 6 & under One or two pieces at any grade/level. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark. Solo or Group of 2 people	Year 6 and under	Up to 4 mins	Solo: £9.00 Duo: £15.00 per duo
117 Intermediate Piano Solo Year 7-9 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 7 to Year 9	Up to 5 mins	£9.50
118 Senior Piano Solo Year 10-13 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 10 to Year 13	Up to 6 mins	£10.00
119 Non-Competitive Piano Solo or Duet Year 7-13 One or two pieces at any grade/level. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark. Solo or Group of 2 people	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 6 mins	Solo: £10.00 Duo: £17.00 per duo
120 Bach Piano Solo One or more items from any single composition by J.S.Bach.	Year 13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£10.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
121 Non-Competitive Piano Recital (any age) Two to four pieces of contrasting styles and periods at any level/grade. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark.	Any	Up to 15 mins	£20.00

DUETS & TRIOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
122 Piano Duet or Trio One or two pieces for two or three performers seated at one piano. Group of 2 to 3 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 3 mins	£14.00 per duo/trio
123 Novice Piano Duet with Teacher Year 2 & under One or two duets. Performer plays the Primo part and only they are adjudicated. Novice classes are intended for those with limited or no previous experience of festivals who have not yet reached a playing standard of Grade 1. Grade 1 examination duets should not be performed.	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
124 Novice Piano Duet with Teacher Year 3-4 One or two duets. Performer plays the Primo part and only they are adjudicated. Novice classes are intended for those with limited or no previous experience of festivals who have not yet reached a playing standard of Grade 1. Grade 1 examination duets should not be performed.	Year 3 to Year 4	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
125 Novice Piano Duet with Teacher Year 5-6 One or two duets. Performer plays the Primo part and only they are adjudicated. Novice classes are intended for those with limited or no previous experience of festivals who have not yet reached a playing standard of Grade 1. Grade 1 examination duets should not be performed.	Year 5 to Year 6	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
126 Piano Duet with Teacher Grade 1 One or two duets with Primo part of approximately Grade 1 standard. Performer plays the Primo part and only they are adjudicated. Performers should not have passed Grade 2 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
127 Piano Duet with Teacher Grade 2-3 One or two duets with Primo part of approximately Grade 2 or 3 standard. Performer plays the Primo part and only they are adjudicated. Performers should not have passed Grade 4 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.50
128 Piano Duet with Teacher Grade 4-5 One or two duets with Primo part of approximately Grade 4 or 5 standard. Performer plays the Primo part and only they are adjudicated. Performers should not have passed Grade 6 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.50

Awards

If you win your class, you may be eligible for an award. Class awards will be announced at the Festival and will be presented at the GEMS Concert & Prize Giving on Sunday 21 March 2027.