TUNBRIDGE WELLS ARTS FESTIVAL

STRINGS (BOWED & PLUCKED) Syllabus

Adjudicator

Fiona McLean-Buechel

BA(RSAMD), CertRAM

Fiona is a specialist strings and chamber music adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals, Scottish Representative for Festivals and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. She is a founder member of NYOS and an alumnus of RCS (RSAMD) and St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh. She enjoys an international career as an educator and performer, currently lecturing in Violin at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for the Junior Department, Primary Instrumental Programme and as project lead for the King's Foundation Programme at Dumfries House. She stepped down from her role as Lead Tutor for Strings at Trinity Laban Junior Conservatoire in 2022.

She has a passion for performance and empowering others to get the most out of their music making. She combines a busy career as a performer and educator; writing creative
and collaborative national and international performance projects & delivering Masterclasses and Professional Development sessions for UK and International Students and Teachers.

GRADED SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
200 Strings Solo Beginners Year 4 & 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 should not have passed Initial Grade by the time of the festival, and may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 4 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
201 Strings 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 should not have passed Initial Grade by the time of the festival, and may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 5 to Year 8	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
202 Strings 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 Accompanist £8.00
203 Strings 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 Accompanist £8.00
204 Strings Solo Grades 2-3 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 2 or 3 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 3 or 4 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 Accompanist £8.50
205 Strings Solo Grades 4-5 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 4 or 5 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 5 or 6 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
206 Strings 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 Accompanist £9.50
207 Advanced Strings 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 Accompanist £14.00

AGE GROUP SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
208 Strings Solo Year 2 & under One or two pieces at any grade/level.	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
209 Strings Solo Year 3-4 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 3 to Year 4	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 Accompanist £8.50
210 Strings Solo Year 5-6 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 5 to Year 6	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
211 Non-Competitive Strings 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 3 mins	Solo: £8.50 Duo: £14.00 per duo Accompanist £8.50
212 Intermediate Strings Solo Year 7-9 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 7 to Year 9	Up to 5 mins	£9.50 Accompanist £9.50
213 Senior Strings Solo Year 10-13 ONE piece at any grade/level performed on a stringed instrument.	Year 10 to Year 13	Up to 6 mins	£10.00 Accompanist £10.00
214 Non-Competitive Strings 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 Accompanist £10.00
215 Bach Strings Solo One or more items from any single composition by J.S.Bach.	Year 13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£10.00 Accompanist £10.00
216 Non-Competitive Strings 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 Accompanist £20.00

ENSEMBLES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
217 Strings Duet with Teacher One or two duets. Only the Performer is adjudicated. The teacher may play any string instrument.	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
218 Strings Duet One or two pieces for two performers. Any combination of strings with optional piano accompaniment. Group of 2 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£15.00 per duo Accompanist £10.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
219 Strings Trio or Quartet One or two pieces for three or four performers. Any combination of strings with optional piano accompaniment. Piano Trio music is not suitable for this class; please enter as a Mixed Ensemble. Group of 3 to 4 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£18.00 per group Accompanist £10.00
220 Strings Ensemble for 5-10 players One or two pieces for any combination of strings with optional piano accompaniment and/or conductor. Group of 5 to 10 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£21.00 per group Accompanist £12.00

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.