



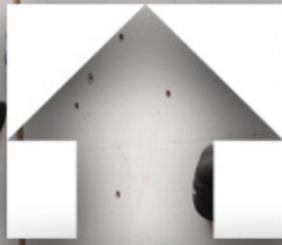
**WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL**

# STRING SYLLABUS



**WCAAF**  
75TH ANNIVERSARY  
2026

**CATEGORIES:**  
BOWED STRINGS  
HARP  
GUITAR  
UKULELE  
ENSEMBLES



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# 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](mailto: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
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

Class	Age	Time	Fee
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
<b>124 STRING ENSEMBLE - School year 4 and under</b> Group of 3 to 30 people	8 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
<b>125 STRING ENSEMBLE - School year 6 and under</b> Award: 136 - WCAF Cup Group of 3 to 30 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
<b>126 STRING ENSEMBLE - School year 9 and under</b> Group of a minimum of 3 people	13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
<b>127 STRING ENSEMBLE - School year 11 and under</b> Group of a minimum of 3 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
<b>128 STRING ENSEMBLE - School year 13 and under</b> Group of a minimum of 3 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
<b>129 STRING ENSEMBLE - Open</b> Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
<b>130 STRING ENSEMBLE - Open adult</b> 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
<b>131 GUITAR OR UKULELE ENSEMBLE - School year 6 and under</b> Group of a minimum of 3 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
<b>132 GUITAR OR UKULELE ENSEMBLE - School year 11 and under</b> Group of a minimum of 3 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
<b>133 GUITAR OR UKULELE ENSEMBLE - Open</b> Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
<b>134 GUITAR OR UKULELE ENSEMBLE - Open adult</b> 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
<b>135 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING SOLO - School year 2 and under</b>	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
<b>136 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING SOLO - School year 6 and under</b>	10 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
<b>137 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING SOLO - School year 13 and under</b>	17 and under	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
<b>138 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING SOLO - Adult</b>	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
<b>139 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING ENSEMBLE - Open</b> Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group