WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

STRING SYLLABUS



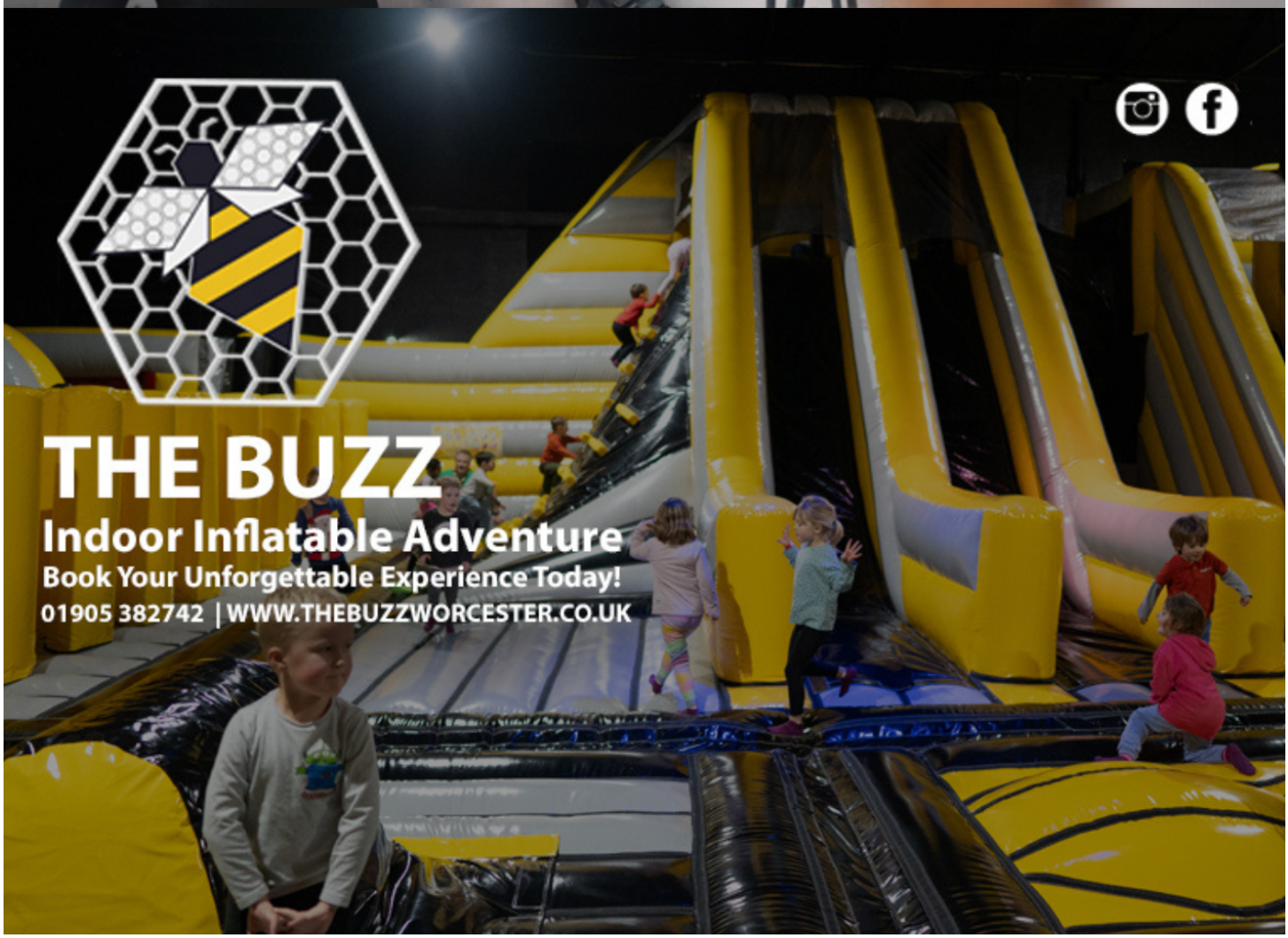




CATEGORIES:

BOWED STRINGS
HARP
GUITAR
UKULELE


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STRINGS (Music Day: Sat 6th March 2027, RGS Worcester) Syllabus

String classes are for all string instruments, including (but not limited to): violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp, guitar and ukulele. We have simplified entries this year. You will find solo categories for all stringed instruments in this section. However, for all ensembles (including string), please see the Music Day Ensembles and Duets section and you can make your entries there.

20% 'early bird' discount is available on all solo and duet entries until 1st December 2026. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss free places and bursaries that may be available: admin@wcaf.org.uk

Soloists 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. A copy of all pieces must be provided for the adjudicator.

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. Electric guitar players should enter the rock and pop section.

More experienced performers may also wish to enter the following classes:
- Marian Baker Memorial Prize and Cup for performers of Grade 6 standard or above AND aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2026.
- Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music for performers who also love speech and drama and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2026
- William Lewis Recital Prize and Salver for performers of any age of grade 6 standard or above.

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 1 min	£6.40
101 GRADE 1 BOWED STRING SOLO	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
102 GRADE 2 BOWED STRING SOLO	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
103 GRADE 3 BOWED STRING SOLO	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
104 GRADE 4 BOWED STRING SOLO	Any	Up to 4 mins	£9.60
105 GRADE 5 BOWED STRING SOLO	Any	Up to 4 mins	£9.60
106 GRADE 6 BOWED STRING SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£11.20
107 GRADE 7 BOWED STRING SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£11.20
108 GRADE 8 BOWED STRING SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£11.20
109 OPEN CLASS FOR BOWED STRING SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£12.80

Class	Age	Time	Fee
110 OPEN CLASS FOR BOWED STRING SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£12.80

Harp Solo

Class	Age	Time	Fee
111 NOVICE HARP SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 1 min	£6.40
112 GRADE 1 HARP SOLO	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
113 GRADE 2 HARP SOLO	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
114 GRADE 3 HARP SOLO	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
115 GRADE 4 HARP SOLO	Any	Up to 4 mins	£9.60
116 GRADE 5 HARP SOLO	Any	Up to 4 mins	£9.60
117 GRADE 6 HARP SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£11.20
118 GRADE 7 HARP SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£11.20
119 GRADE 8 HARP SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£11.20
120 OPEN CLASS FOR HARP SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£12.80
121 OPEN CLASS FOR HARP SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£12.80

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
122 NOVICE ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 1 min	£6.40
123 GRADE 1 ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
124 GRADE 2 ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
125 GRADE 3 ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
126 GRADE 4 ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO	Any	Up to 4 mins	£9.60
127 GRADE 5 ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO	Any	Up to 4 mins	£9.60
128 GRADE 6 ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£11.20
129 GRADE 7 ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£11.20
130 GRADE 8 ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£11.20
131 OPEN CLASS FOR ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£12.80
132 OPEN CLASS FOR ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£12.80
133 NOVICE UKULELE SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 1 min	£6.40
134 GRADE 1 UKULELE SOLO	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
135 GRADE 2 UKULELE SOLO	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
136 GRADE 3 UKULELE SOLO	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
137 GRADE 4 UKULELE SOLO	Any	Up to 4 mins	£9.60

Class	Age	Time	Fee
138 GRADE 5 UKULELE SOLO	Any	Up to 4 mins	£9.60
139 GRADE 6 UKULELE SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£11.20
140 GRADE 7 UKULELE SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£11.20
141 GRADE 8 UKULELE SOLO	Any	Up to 6 mins	£11.20
142 OPEN CLASS FOR UKULELE SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£12.80
143 OPEN CLASS FOR UKULELE SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£12.80

Non-Competitive String Solo

Class	Age	Time	Fee
155 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING SOLO - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.40
156 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING SOLO - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
157 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING SOLO - School year 13 and under	17 and under	Up to 5 mins	£11.20
158 NON-COMPETITIVE STRING SOLO - Adult	18 and over	Up to 8 mins	£12.80

WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL RULES (2027)

REVIEWED AND APPLICABLE FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2026.

1. Key Dates & Submissions

All entries must be made online via PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 8th January 2027. No other methods of entry are accepted.
'Early Bird' discounts end at 23:45 on 1st December 2026.
Full details of the piece(s) to be performed are requested but do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC or similar) but entries must updated and all entry information must be fully complete, with (where required) all backing tracks, videos and/or adjudicator manuscripts uploaded by 23:45 on 16th January 2027. Late submissions risk disqualification without refund.

2. Entry Fees & Discounts

All large ensembles are free of charge and 20% 'early bird' discount is available until 1st December 2026. Prices shown on Play&Perform are inclusive of any discount and prices will rise following the 'early bird' deadline.
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
Fees are payable online at the point of entry. Credit/debit card or PayPal payments preferred. BACS transfers are acceptable and cheque payment may be accepted in exceptional circumstances. If you need an invoice or to pay by cheque, please contact: admin@wcaf.org.uk
Entries may be withdrawn by the entrant at any point, but fees are non-refundable.

3. Age Groups & Category Limits

Age Determination: The performer's age on 1st September 2026 determines class eligibility (aligned with the academic year):
8 & Under: School Year 4 and below
10 & Under: School Year 6 and below
12 & Under: School Year 8 and below
14 & Under: School Year 10 and below
16 & Under: School Year 12 and below
Open Categories: Open to all ages; adult solo categories are for ages 18+.
Groups, ensembles and choirs: It is assumed that the age of the majority of performers in any group, ensemble or choir aligns with the section entered. However, we recognise that this is not always possible. As long as the majority of performers are within the age limits, exceptions may be made (for example, where children are not in their expected school year.) The person making the entry must notify WCAF of any individuals whose ages do not align with the class entered ahead of making the entry, so that the correct class can be agreed. Please ensure the ages of the oldest and youngest performers in your group are included as part of your entry.
Entry Limits: Solo performers may enter only ONE age or standard class plus the OPEN class per section on the same instrument (including voice). Performing on different instruments or as part of multiple ensembles is permitted.
Repertoire: Performers must use a different piece for each entry in the same section.

4. Types of Classes

Across the festival, there are non-competitive classes for all ages and abilities. These classes may be found in the appropriate section. Entrants in all classes will receive written comments, a certificate and a classification in line with the BIFF mark scheme (Developing, Progressing, Merit, Commended, Honours, Outstanding, Exceptional).
Competitive Classes: 1st, 2nd and 3rd places may be also be awarded for competitive classes. Tied places are allowed.
Awards & Feedback: Certificates and written comments should be collected at the end of each class. Adjudicator decisions are final.
Non-Competitive Classes: Performances will simply be celebrated. No comparison will be made between performances and no places nor medals will be awarded. Each performer will receive written comments and a classification mark for their performance. However, these will not be announced and the adjudicator will simply give constructive comments on the performances overall. Entrants may also enter competitive classes.
Trophies and Prizes: WCAF trophies and prizes are awarded on the recommendation of the adjudicators and at the discretion of the WCAF committee. Unless specifically stated, trophies are not usually awarded simply for winning a competitive class. Trophies may therefore be awarded to performers in non-competitive classes. All trophies and prizes will be awarded at the Festival Concert. Trophy winners are required to sign a form on receipt of their trophy and take responsibility for the safe return of the trophy for the following year by 31st January. A fee may be charged if any trophy is returned late, damaged, dirty, missing its box or it is not returned at all.
Inclusive classes: We want to make WCAF as inclusive and accessible as possible. Therefore, we will make every effort to incorporate changes to existing classes and/or new classes to accommodate anyone who has additional needs in the way that is best for them. Please email admin@wcaf.org.uk to discuss.

WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL RULES (2027)
REVIEWED AND APPLICABLE FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2026.

5. Festival Days
Timetable: The timetable, adjudicator, venues and running order for specific classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. Classes may be divided, combined and/or cancelled at any time. If necessary, classes may be changed to virtual/online, meaning that video submissions will be required by the advertised deadline. In the event of the cancellation of a class, any fees paid will be returned.
Equipment: If required, performers must provide their own sheet music (including a copy for the adjudicator and/or accompanist, where specified.) Relying solely on digital screens/devices is discouraged.
Photography & Video: Strictly prohibited during all performances and adjudications, except for the official WCAF photographers, who will wear uniform and be clearly identifiable.
Food & Drink: No eating or drinking in performance spaces (water bottles are allowed).

6. Performance Guidelines
Choice of Pieces: In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE piece should be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one or more pieces may be performed within the time limit for the class.
Timing of Pieces: Please see the information for each section/class for time limits and number of pieces permitted. Time limits include all introductions and/or pauses. Exceeding time limits or performing in the wrong genre in competitive classes may result in no placement nor ranking and only feedback being given. Please check the requirements of each class carefully.
Introductions: Performers should introduce their piece(s) at the beginning of their performance.
Adjudicator Copies: Please see the information for each section/class about whether copies for the adjudicator are required.
Accompaniment: Musical performances may use a live accompanist or backing tracks, they may be self-accompanied, totally unaccompanied or a mixture of these. The performer's choice should be stated upon entry and if not, updated by 16th January at the latest. If used, backing tracks must be uploaded by 16th January 2027 and must not include the solo line being performed. Official festival accompanists may be requested during registration and WCAF will contact performers directly to make arrangements and fees, where this is possible.
Costumes & Props: Costumes and props are not permitted in classes on the Music day, including the singing classes. Please see the information for each section/class for elements permitted on the Musical Theatre and Poetry, Prose & Drama days.

7. Strong language and adult content
WCAF is a family-friendly festival. We want everyone to enjoy their experience and feel safe. We recognize that some pieces explore adult themes and contain strong language and we don't want to 'censor' entries, but please choose age-appropriate pieces and avoid unnecessary strong language or offensive content. This includes anything that may cause offence regarding protected characteristics (such as race, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or religious beliefs).
Full details of the piece(s) to be performed (including the name of the piece and the composer/author) are requested, but do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC or similar). However, all entries must be updated and all entry information must be fully complete ahead of the festival so that you can flag any adult themes, strong language, or sensitive topics. If flagged, this doesn't necessarily mean you won't be able to perform your piece. We will ask for a copy to review with you before the day and may suggest minor script changes or add an audience warning so that everyone gets to make an informed choice about whether to watch.
We reserve the right to reject entries with continuous profanity or discriminatory language.

8. Admission & Spectators
Free Admission: Competitors, accompanists, conductors and teachers who have entered groups or multiple performers are admitted free of charge.
Spectator Entry: Spectator tickets and festival programmes are available online: https://www.wcaf.org.uk/tickets or 'on the door' each day. Pre-order and multi-session discounts are only available online, in advance.
Accessibility: Special access or parking needs should be notified at least one week in advance to admin@wcaf.org.uk

9. The WCAF Organising Committee reserves the right to:
Change entry and/or spectator ticket prices;
Offer and withdraw discounts or free entry offers;
Change any class to a virtual class, meaning that video submissions will be required by the advertised deadline;
Cancel any class and return the fee;
Divide and/or combine classes;
Change the order of individual performers in a class and if necessary, the class itself; and
Make any changes necessary to the festival to accommodate any current government guidance.