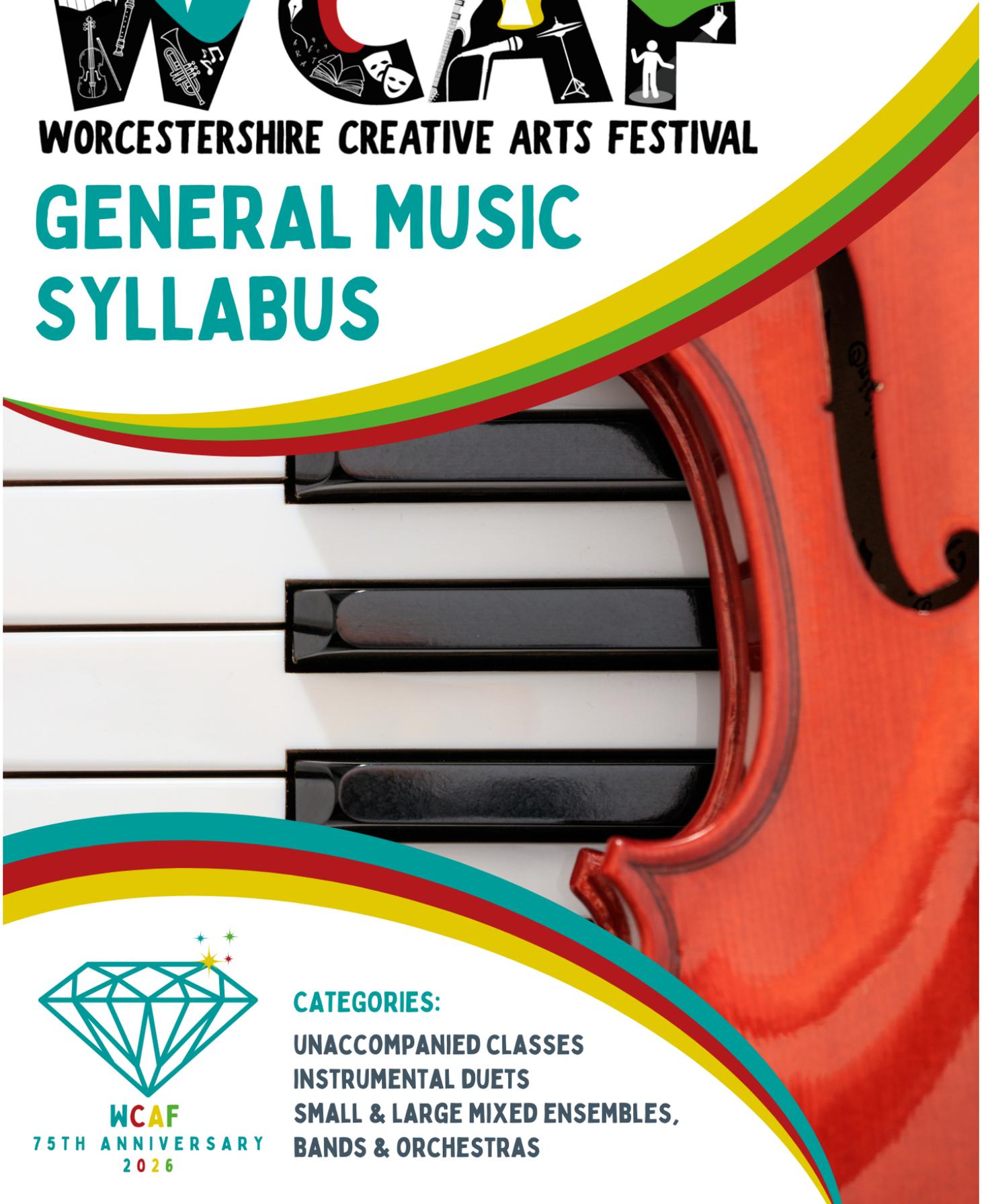




WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

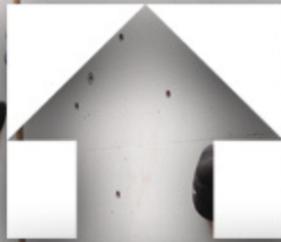
GENERAL MUSIC SYLLABUS



WCAAF
75TH ANNIVERSARY
2026

CATEGORIES:

- UNACCOMPANIED CLASSES**
- INSTRUMENTAL DUETS**
- SMALL & LARGE MIXED ENSEMBLES,
BANDS & ORCHESTRAS**



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GENERAL MUSIC CLASSES Syllabus

The general music classes are intended to take place on Saturday 7th March 2026 at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester. Performances may include any instrument.

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

Categories in the general music section this year:

Unaccompanied solo
Instrumental duets
Small music ensemble
Large music ensemble, band or orchestra
Non-competitive unaccompanied solo
Non-competitive instrumental duet
Non-competitive music 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.

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES MADE UP OF PERFORMERS OF SCHOOL AGE IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 2025!!****

Performers should introduce their piece(s) at the beginning of their performance. Time limits include the 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.

Unaccompanied Classes

Unaccompanied classes are for any instrument (except piano) performed without accompaniment. Solo performers may enter only the class most appropriate for their playing standard and the open class for each instrument in each competitive section. However, performers may make further entries to the same class if playing more than one instrument and may enter non-competitive classes in addition. Different pieces must be played or performed for each entry in the unaccompanied classes.

In addition, performers may wish to enter the following special 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.
- Singers and instrumentalists 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 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 GENERAL MUSIC SECTION MAY ALSO BE PLAYED IN THE ABOVE SPECIAL CLASSES

In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE piece of the performer's choice is to be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one OR two pieces of the performer's choice may be performed within the time limit for the class.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
400 NOVICE UNACCOMPANIED SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
401 BEGINNER UNACCOMPANIED SOLO (Approx. grade 1-3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
402 INTERMEDIATE UNACCOMPANIED SOLO (Approx. grade 4-5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
403 ADVANCED UNACCOMPANIED SOLO (Approx. grade 6-8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
404 OPEN CLASS FOR UNACCOMPANIED SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Instrumental Duets

Own choice of duet for instruments or instrument/voice, with or without piano accompaniment. (This does not include piano or vocal duet - please see the piano and vocal sections for these classes.)

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.

In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE piece is to be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one OR two pieces may be performed within the time limit for the class.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
405 INSTRUMENTAL DUET - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 4 mins	£20.00
406 INSTRUMENTAL DUET - School year 11 and under	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£20.00
407 OPEN CLASS FOR INSTRUMENTAL DUET	Any	Up to 8 mins	£20.00

General Music Ensembles

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 2025!!****

General music ensembles may contain any combination of instruments, including (but not exclusively) voice. Any style of music is encouraged in the general music ensemble sections, but ensembles may also wish to consider entry into the Rock and Pop or Jazz sections, where appropriate. Ensembles of only one type of instrument (i.e. strings or woodwind) may also wish to enter the ensemble classes within specific sections of the syllabus.

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 1st September 2025. Please ensure that the age of the eldest performer on 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.

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.

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.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is always preferred. If you choose to use a backing track rather than a live accompanist, the backing track must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Any backing track must not contain the instruments to be played as part of the ensemble. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Small Music Ensemble

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 2025!!****

Class	Age	Time	Fee
408 SMALL ENSEMBLE - Novice - Open This competitive class is for ensembles of beginners of any age, playing piece(s) up to approximately grade 1 standard. Group of 3 to 10 people	Any	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group
409 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 4 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	88 and under	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group
410 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 6 and under Award: 18 Worcestershire Orchestra Society Group of 3 to 10 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
411 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 9 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
412 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 11 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
413 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 13 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
415 SMALL ENSEMBLE - Open Group of 3 to 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
416 SMALL ENSEMBLE - Open adult Group of 3 to 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Large Music Ensemble, Band or Orchestra

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 2025!!****

Class	Age	Time	Fee
417 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - Novice - Open This competitive class is for ensembles of beginners of any age, playing piece(s) up to approximately grade 1 standard. Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group
418 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 2 and under Group of a minimum of 10 people	6 and under	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group
419 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 4 and under Group of a minimum of 10 people	8 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
420 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 6 and under Award: 003 - The David Lee Trophy Group of a minimum of 10 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
421 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 9 and under Group of a minimum of 10 people	13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group

Class	Age	Time	Fee
422 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 11 and under Group of a minimum of 10 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
423 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 13 and under Group of a minimum of 10 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
424 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - Open Award: 106 - The Jenny Cup Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
425 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - Open adult Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
433 INCLUSIVE MUSIC GROUP - Open Award: 147 - WCAF Cup Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Non-competitive 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. Performers may play one or more piece(s) within the time limit for the class. Please note that the ages for the classes below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2025.

Non-competitive Unaccompanied Solo

Performers may enter with their own choice of piece on any instrument (except piano) performed without accompaniment. Performers may make more than one entry to these classes on different instruments and may also enter competitive classes. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
426 NON-COMPETITIVE UNACCOMPANIED SOLO - School year 2 and under	6 and under	Up to 1 min	£6.67
427 NON-COMPETITIVE UNACCOMPANIED SOLO - School year 6 and under	11 and under	Up to 4 mins	£8.00
428 NON-COMPETITIVE UNACCOMPANIED SOLO - School year 13 and under	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£10.67
429 NON-COMPETITIVE UNACCOMPANIED SOLO - Open	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Non-competitive Instrumental Duet

Ensembles may perform their own choice of piece on any instruments or instrument/voice, with or without piano accompaniment. (This does not include piano or vocal duet - please see the piano and vocal sections for these classes.) Individual performers may perform as part of more than one duet. Duets may also wish to enter the competitive duet classes. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry.

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.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
430 NON-COMPETITIVE INSTRUMENTAL DUET PERFORMANCE - Open	Any	Up to 8 mins	£20.00

Non-competitive Music Ensembles

****ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES MADE UP OF PERFORMERS OF SCHOOL AGE IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 2025!****

Ensembles may perform their own choice of piece on any combination of any instruments, within the time limit. 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.

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.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
431 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSIC SMALL ENSEMBLE - Open Group of 3 to 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
432 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSIC LARGE ENSEMBLE - Open Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
434 WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY MUSIC ENSEMBLES Help us to celebrate our 75th Anniversary! Play any piece with 'Diamond' in the title or any piece published in 1951 or any song by any composer born in 1951. You could even play a piece by Neil Diamond! Get imaginative, join in and have fun. We will aim to schedule these performances at a similar time to any other ensemble classes you may be. You may also be invited to perform again at our 75th birthday party on Saturday 21st March. Group of any size	Any	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
435 WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS Award: WCAF DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CLASS Help us to celebrate our 75th Anniversary! Play any piece with 'Diamond' in the title or any piece published in 1951 or any song by any composer born in 1951. You could even play a piece by Neil Diamond! Get imaginative, join in and have fun. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries or aren't sure what to perform! We will aim to schedule these performances at a similar time to any other ensemble classes you may be. You may also be invited to perform again at our 75th birthday party on Saturday 21st March.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£0.00