WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

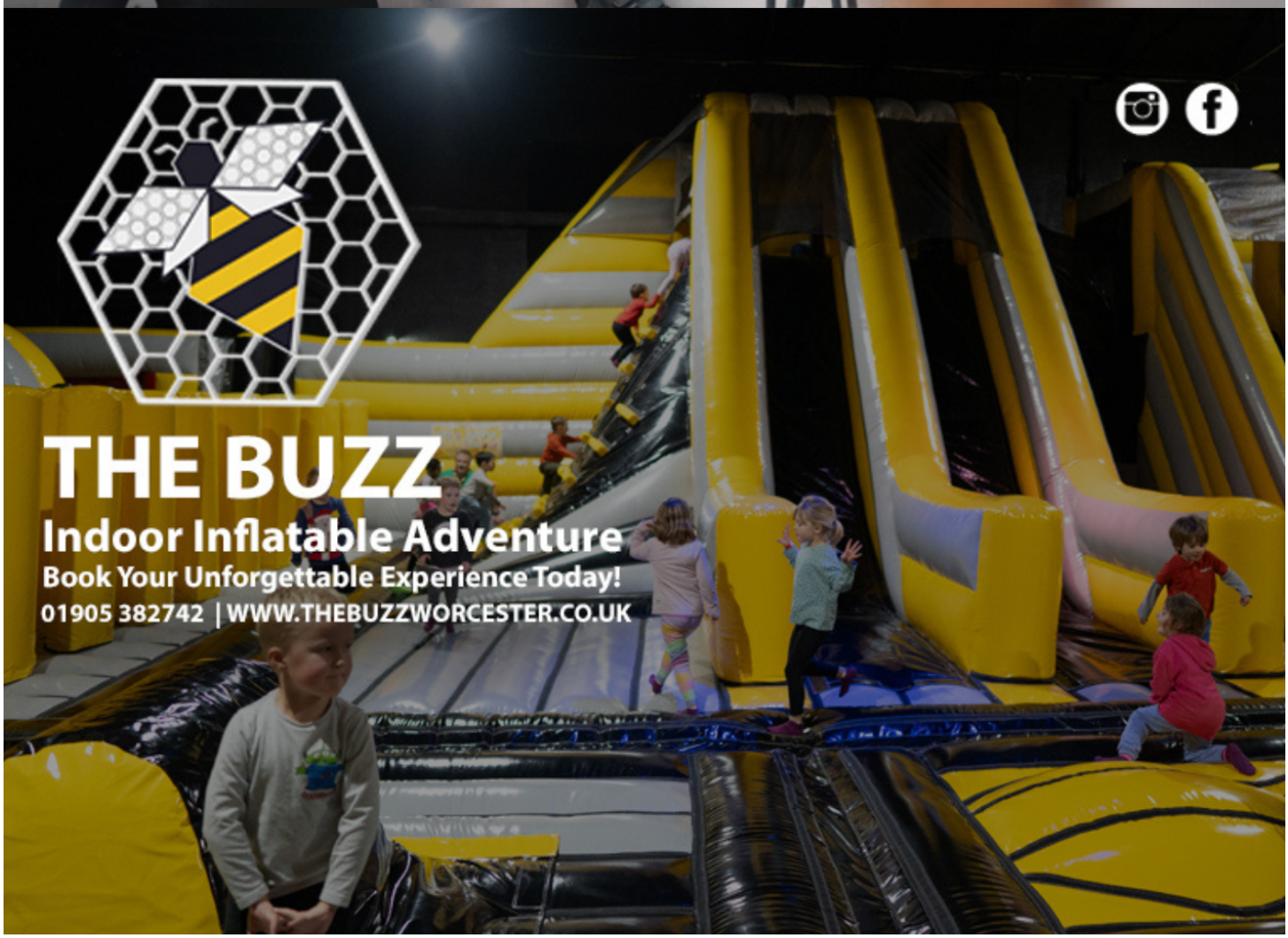
MUSIC DAY ENSEMBLES & DUETS SYLLABUS



CATEGORIES:

INSTRUMENTAL DUETS
SMALL & LARGE ENSEMBLES,
BANDS & ORCHESTRAS


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ENSEMBLES AND DUETS (Music Day: Sat 6th March 2027, RGS Worcester) Syllabus

All music groups and ensembles are welcome at WCAF, whatever your size, age, ability or experience! Choose to compete or simply perform to a supportive audience. Groups/ensembles in this section enter free and duets receive a 20% 'early-bird' discount until 1st December 2026. We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. For help with fees, including possible free places or bursaries, please contact admin@wcaf.org.uk

Any musical style and combination of instruments is welcome, including groups of the same instrument. This year, to simplify the entry process, all groups and ensembles should enter this section, no matter what instruments you are made up of. So whether you are a cello group, a brass band, a ukulele ensemble or a full symphony orchestra, please enter here. Voices may be included, but two-voice and piano-and-voice duets belong in the vocal section. Duets for two pianists should enter the piano duets section. For rock, pop or jazz, you may also like the Marr's Bar sessions.

Age groups follow school years, taken from the age of the oldest member of your ensemble on 1st September 2026. Please give your youngest and oldest singers' ages when entering, to enable us to split classes fairly, if necessary. Ensembles entering Open Adult sections may include under-18s, but most performers must be over 18. If you have any queries, please contact us to discuss, as we are always willing to be flexible. Conductors and accompanists can be any age!

You are welcome to perform multiple pieces within the time limit for your class, including introductions and pauses. Please provide copies of all sheet music for the adjudicator. Accompaniment is optional; live accompaniment is preferred. If used, backing tracks must not include the instruments played by your ensemble and must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 16th January 2027.

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.)

Class	Age	Time	Fee
400 INSTRUMENTAL DUET - School year 2 and under	8 and under	Up to 3 mins	£12.00
401 INSTRUMENTAL DUET - School year 4 and under	8 and under	Up to 3 mins	£12.00
402 INSTRUMENTAL DUET - School year 6 and under	10 and under	Up to 4 mins	£12.80
404 INSTRUMENTAL DUET - School year 11 and under	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£14.40
405 OPEN CLASS FOR INSTRUMENTAL DUET	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
406 NON-COMPETITIVE INSTRUMENTAL DUET	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Small Music Ensemble

Class	Age	Time	Fee
403 INSTRUMENTAL DUET - School year 9 and under	13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£13.60
407 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
408 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 4 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	8 and under	Up to 4 mins	£0.00 per group
409 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 6 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
410 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 9 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
411 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 11 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
412 SMALL ENSEMBLE - School year 13 and under Group of 3 to 10 people	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
413 SMALL ENSEMBLE - Open Group of 3 to 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
414 SMALL ENSEMBLE - Open adult Group of 3 to 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
415 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSIC SMALL ENSEMBLE - Open Group of 3 to 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Large Music Ensemble, Band or Orchestra

Class	Age	Time	Fee
416 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
417 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
418 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
419 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - School year 6 and under Group of a minimum of 10 people	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£0.00 per group
420 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
421 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
422 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
423 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - Open Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
424 LARGE ENSEMBLE, BAND OR ORCHESTRA - Open adult Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
425 NON-COMPETITIVE MUSIC LARGE ENSEMBLE - Open Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
426 INCLUSIVE MUSIC GROUP - Open Group of a minimum of 10 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

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.

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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.