

Strings Syllabus
13th-15th November 2026

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STRINGS Syllabus

13th - 15th November 2026
Strings Committee
Convenor Isobel Kennedy
Committee Mr M Gadd LLCM, Mrs Sally Goodfellow, Mr Jena Pang MA (Oxon), PGDL, Avril Childs, Jacqueline Pipe, Lucy Butler & Becky Cox

Rules

GENERAL ENTRY CONDITIONS for COMPETITION

Please look at the main website for the full Entry Conditions:

southendfestivalofperformingarts.com/entry-terms-conditions

Any performer wishing to know more about the British & International Federation of Festivals and its recommended guidelines please refer to:

www.federationoffestivals.org.uk

We follow the BIFF marking scheme

95+ (or Exceptional) - A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic individualit
90-94 (or Outstanding) - An impressive performance technically and artistically, displaying spontaneity & clear individuality
85-89 (or Honours) - An excellent performance, demonstrating fluent technical and artistic skills with emerging individuality
80-84 (or Commended) - A convincing performance technically & artistically, with increasing stylistic & communication skills
75-79 (or Merit) - A competent performance, showing some artistic awareness and/or technical ability
70-74 (or Progressing) - A performance showing development of technique and/or communication and commitment
65-69 (or Developing) - A performance demonstrating an awareness of technical skills, requiring more consistency & artistry

Tophies or prizes will only be awarded when the entrant receives a mark above 80

All entry fees are stated against each class in the syllabus.

Solos: Please see individual class information

Recitals/original compositions, duets/trios/quartets and the Edna Head Award: £10.00

Groups of 5 - 9 competitors (inclusive): £15.00

Groups of 10 or more competitors: £20.00

(Please note: We regret that we are not in a position to refund Entry Fees)

For the duration of the Festival all teachers/parents/guardians/carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/pupils/vulnerable adults. If they are unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibilities to an identified adult and ensure that their

children/pupils/vulnerable adults are aware of the identity and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all Festival venues, performance, practice and changing areas that may be provided.

Adjudicator

Elizabeth Brazier

GRSM,LRAM,ARCM,PGCE,DipEd

Elizabeth was born in London and is a Graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, where she studied piano with Guy Jonson and 'cello with Derek Simpson.

Her first teaching post brought her to Cornwall and she has lived in Truro ever since. It is as a 'cellist and 'cello teacher that Elizabeth has become principally known, although she is also a pianist, and was one of the founder members of the leading local opera company, and sang principal roles in its early productions.

She has taught in many schools and has a thriving practice at home, teaching both 'cello and piano. She plays in orchestras, ensembles and chamber groups around the Southwest.

Her work as an Associated Board Examiner has taken her all over the world, an aspect of her profession that she particularly enjoys. In nearly thirty years' examining she has gained experience in Britain, America, Bermuda, Scandinavia, Iceland, South Africa, Mauritus, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong and she is an adjudicator member of The British and International Federation of Festivals.

Of her three sons, two, Ben and Daniel, have followed her into music. This has been a satisfying bonus to a lifelong love and enthusiasm for performing and teaching.

SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
3000 SENIOR RECITAL CLASS - Any stringed instrument (Amateur or Professional) Award: The Winifred Nancarrow Challenge Cup, Cash Prize of £25 donated by Jena Pang A programme of contrasting pieces; balance of programme will be taken into consideration.	16 and over	Up to 20 mins	£10.50
3020 JUNIOR RECITAL CLASS - Any stringed instrument Award: The Marjorie Bose Memorial Cup, The Joyce & Bobby Birn Memorial Cash Prize of £25 A programme of contrasting pieces; balance of programme will be taken into consideration.	15 and under	Up to 15 mins	£10.50

Class	Age	Time	Fee
3040 CONCERTO CLASS - Any Stringed Instrument (Amateur or Professional) Award: The Robert Carrodus Memorial Bowl One movement from any Concerto or work for solo stringed instrument and orchestra. Performance time should not exceed 15 minutes, unless permission is specifically obtained from the Festival at least 2 weeks before the closing date.	Any	Up to 15 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3050 BAROQUE CLASS - Any stringed instrument Award: The Sheila Marshall Memorial Cup Any stringed instrument (including Plucked) Own choice of any work from the Baroque period.	Any	Up to 10 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3060 SENIOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC (INCLUDING FILM AND SHOW MUSIC) - Any stringed instrument Award: The Wilfrid Waller Memorial Cup Own choice of one piece of music composed from 1900 onwards. (16 years and over)	16 and over	Up to 10 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3070 JUNIOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC (INCLUDING FILM AND SHOW MUSIC) - Any stringed instrument Award: Cowan Cup Own choice of one piece of music composed from 1900 onwards. (15yrs and under)	15 and under	Up to 8 mins	£7.50
3080 VIOLIN OR VIOLA SOLO - OWN CHOICE (Any Age) Award: The Dorothy Ventris Trophy (Senior Violin) Own choice of one piece.	Any	Up to 15 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3100 VIOLIN SOLO - SET PIECE (15yrs and under) Polish Dance (Trad) from the Young Violinist's Repertoire Book 3 (Faber)	15 and under	Up to 2 mins	£7.50
3105 VIOLA SOLO - SET PIECE (15yrs and under) Marche Militaire by Franz Schubert (without repeats) from Solos for Young Violists Vol. 2 (Barbara Barber)	15 and under	Up to 2 mins	£7.50
3110 VIOLIN AND VIOLA SOLO - OWN CHOICE (15yrs and under) Award: The Jena Pang - Brenda Farrow Rose Bowl Own choice of one piece.	15 and under	Up to 8 mins	£7.50
3120 VIOLIN SOLO - SET PIECE (13yrs and under) Minuet by Mozart, from Young Violinist's Repertoire Book 3 (Faber)	13 and under		£7.50
3125 VIOLA SOLO - SET PIECE (13yrs and under) Children's Prayer from Hansel & Gretel by Engelbert Humperdinck (without repeats) from Solos for Young Violists Vol.1 (Barbara Barber)	13 and under		£7.50
3130 VIOLIN or VIOLA SOLO - OWN CHOICE (11-13 yrs) Award: Cash Prize of £10 donated by Jena Pang Own choice of one piece	Age 11 - 13	Up to 5 mins	£7.50
3140 VIOLIN or VIOLA SOLO - SET PIECE (10yrs and under) Fiddlesticks by K. & H. Colledge from Waggon Wheels (Boosey & Hawkes)	10 and under		£7.50

Class	Age	Time	Fee
3150 VIOLIN or VIOLA SOLO - OWN CHOICE (10yrs and under) Award: The Terry Birdseye Cup for Strings & Cash Prize of £15 Own choice of 1 of 2 pieces	10 and under	Up to 3 mins	£7.50
3180 VIOLIN or VIOLA SOLO - SET PIECE (8yrs and under) Oom-Pah Band by K. & H. Colledge from Stepping Stones (Boosey & Hawkes)	8 and under		£7.50
3190 VIOLIN or VIOLA SOLO - OWN CHOICE (8yrs and under) Own choice of 1 or 2 pieces.	8 and under	Up to 3 mins	£6.00

NOVICE CLASSES AND NON-COMPETITIVE CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
3200 VIOLIN or VIOLA NOVICE CLASS (11-18yrs) Competitors must not have been learning either instrument for more than 18 months at date of entry. Own choice of one or two pieces.	Age 11 - 18	Up to 3 mins	£7.50
3205 VIOLIN or VIOLA NOVICE CLASS (10yrs and under) Competitors must not have been learning either instrument for more than 18 months at date of entry. Own choice of one or two pieces.	10 and under	Up to 2 mins	£7.50

SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
3210 ADULT LEARNERS - Any Stringed Instrument Own choice. This Class is intended for those who are learning a stringed instrument in their adult years.	18 and over	Up to 5 mins	£8.50
3220 'CELLO or DOUBLE BASS SOLO (Any age) Award: The Dorothy Ventris Trophy (Senior 'Cello) Own choice	Any	Up to 15 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3240 'CELLO SOLO - SET PIECE (15yrs and under) Meditation by Arnold Trowell from 12 Morceaux Faciles Op. 4 Vol 3 (Schott)	15 and under	Up to 2 mins	£7.50
3250 'CELLO or DOUBLE BASS SOLO - OWN CHOICE (15yrs and under) Award: The Kathryn Ash Memorial Cup Own choice of one piece.	15 and under	Up to 8 mins	£7.50
3260 'CELLO SOLO - SET PIECE (13yrs and under) Wild West by K&D Blackwell from Cello Time Sprinters (OUP)	13 and under		£7.50
3270 'CELLO or DOUBLE BASS SOLO - OWN CHOICE (13yrs and under) Award: Cash prize of £10 (donated by Jason Cello Tuition) Own choice of one piece	13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£7.50
3280 'CELLO SOLO - SET PIECE (10yrs and under) Air by Lully from Violoncello Music for Beginners Vol. 1 (EMB)	10 and under		£7.50
3290 'CELLO SOLO or DOUBLE BASS SOLO - OWN CHOICE (10yrs and under) Award: The Gwen Horrigan MBE Memorial Trophy Own choice of 1 or 2 pieces	10 and under	Up to 3 mins	£7.50
3300 'CELLO SOLO - SET PIECE (8yrs and under) See-Saw By K&H Colledge from Stepping Stones (Boosey & Hawkes)	8 and under		£7.50
3310 'CELLO or DOUBLE BASS SOLO - OWN CHOICE (8yrs and under) Award: The Wong's Cup for Young Cellists & Cash prize of £10 for winner, £5 for runner-up (donated by Jason Cello Tuition) Own choice of 1 or 2 pieces.	8 and under	Up to 3 mins	£7.50

NOVICE CLASSES AND NON-COMPETITIVE CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
3320 'CELLO or DOUBLE BASS NOVICES (11-18yrs) Competitors must not have been learning for more than 18 months at date of entry. Own choice of 1 or 2 pieces.	Age 11 - 18	Up to 3 mins	£7.50
3330 'CELLO or DOUBLE BASS NOVICES (10yrs and under) Competitors must not have been learning for more than 18 months at date of entry. Own choice of 1 or 2 pieces.	10 and under	Up to 3 mins	£7.50

SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
3400 HARP SOLO Own choice- any age	Any	Up to 10 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3410 GUITAR SOLO (Amateur or Professional - Any age) Award: Multi-class: The Jerry Mayes Challenge Cup (Classes 3410, 3420 & 3430) Own choice	16 and over	Up to 10 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3420 GUITAR SOLO (15yrs and under) Award: Multi-class: The Jerry Mayes Challenge Cup (Classes 3410, 3420 & 3430) Own choice of one piece	15 and under	Up to 8 mins	£7.50
3430 GUITAR SOLO (10yrs and under) Award: Multi-class: The Jerry Mayes Challenge Cup (Classes 3410, 3420 & 3430) Own choice of 1 or 2 pieces	10 and under	Up to 5 mins	£7.50
3440 SENIOR UNACCOMPANIED SOLO - Violin, Viola, 'Cello, Bass (16yrs and over) Any orchestral stringed instrument. Own choice of music written/arranged specifically for unaccompanied performance. 16yrs and over.	16 and over	Up to 10 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3450 JUNIOR UNACCOMPANIED SOLO - Violin, Viola, 'Cello, Bass (15yrs and Under) Any orchestral stringed instrument. Own choice of music written/arranged specifically for unaccompanied performance. 15yrs and under	15 and under	Up to 8 mins	£7.50

GRADED CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
3500 STRINGS INITIAL AND GRADE 1 - Any stringed instrument Any one piece from the examination syllabus of ABRSM or Trinity from 2010 onwards. Competitors must not have passed any grade higher than the one from which the choice is made and must not play the piece in any other class in the Strings section.	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3530 STRINGS GRADE 2 AND 3 - Any stringed instrument Any one piece from the examination syllabus of ABRSM or Trinity from 2010 onwards. Competitors must not have passed any grade higher than the one from which the choice is made and must not play the piece in any other class in the Strings section.	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3560 STRINGS GRADE 4 AND 5 - Any Stringed Instrument Any one piece from the examination syllabus of ABRSM or Trinity from 2010 onwards. Competitors must not have passed any grade higher than the one from which the choice is made and must not play the piece in any other class in the Strings section.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3570 STRINGS GRADE 6 AND 7 - Any Stringed Instrument Any one piece from the examination syllabus of ABRSM or Trinity from 2010 onwards. Competitors must not have passed any grade higher than the one from which the choice is made and must not play the piece in any other class in the Strings section.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3580 STRINGS GRADE 8 - Any Stringed Instrument Any one piece from the examination syllabus of ABRSM or Trinity from 2010 onwards. Competitors must not have passed any grade higher than the one from which the choice is made and must not play the piece in any other class in the Strings section.	Any	Up to 8 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3590 DIPLOMA - Any Stringed Instrument (Amateur or Professional) Any one piece from the examination syllabus of ABRSM or Trinity from 2010 onwards. Competitors must not play the piece in any other class in the Strings section.	Any	Up to 10 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)

DUETS & ENSEMBLES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
3700 DUET FOR TWO VIOLINS - Any age Award: Multi-class: The Leona Phillips Challenge Cup (Classes 3700,3710,3720,3730) Accompaniment optional. Enter up to 3 pieces. Own choice. Duet	Any	Up to 10 mins	£10.00
3710 DUET FOR TWO VIOLINS (12yrs and under) Award: Multi-class: The Leona Phillips Challenge Cup (Classes 3700,3710,3720,3730) Accompaniment optional. Enter up to 3 pieces. Own choice. Duet	12 and under	Up to 5 mins	£10.00
3720 DUET FOR TWO 'CELLOS - Any Age Award: Multi-class: The Leona Phillips Challenge Cup (Classes 3700,3710,3720,3730) Accompaniment optional. Enter up to 3 pieces. Own choice. Duet	Any	Up to 10 mins	£10.00
3730 DUET FOR TWO 'CELLOS (12yrs and under) Award: Multi-class: The Leona Phillips Challenge Cup (Classes 3700,3710,3720,3730) Accompaniment optional. Enter up to 3 pieces. Own choice. Duet	12 and under	Up to 5 mins	£10.00
3740 VIOLIN, VIOLA, 'CELLO, BASS DUET - Teacher & Pupil (16yrs and over) Own choice. Pupil only to be adjudicated. The pupil should pay a solo fee; no fee is payable by the Teacher.	16 and over	Up to 5 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
3750 VIOLIN, VIOLA, 'CELLO, BASS DUET - Teacher & Pupil (15yrs and under) Own choice. Pupil only to be adjudicated. The pupil should pay a solo fee; no fee is payable by the Teacher.	15 and under	Up to 5 mins	£7.50
3800 STRING GROUP - Any age Award: The HSBC Bank String Group Trophy (Senior) Any combination of orchestral stringed instruments. Enter up to 3 pieces. Own choice. Piano accompaniment optional. Group of any size	Any	Up to 10 mins	See notes for group fees
3810 STRING GROUP - 12yrs and under Award: The HSBC Bank String Group Trophy (Junior) Any combination of orchestral stringed instruments. Enter up to 3 pieces Own choice. Piano accompaniment optional. N.B. Suitable arrangements may be used in this Class, but a copy of such must be available for the Adjudicator. Group of any size	12 and under	Up to 10 mins	See notes for group fees

Class	Age	Time	Fee
3820 GROUP CLASS for PLUCKED INSTRUMENTS Any combination of two or more plucked instruments (guitar, mandolin, lute, etc.). Own choice. Enter up to 3 pieces. Piano accompaniment optional. N.B. Suitable arrangements may be used in this Class, but a copy of such must be available for the Adjudicator. Group of any size	Any	Up to 10 mins	See notes for group fees
3830 DUET FOR ANY 2 STRINGED INSTRUMENTS (Amateur or Professional) Award: The Golden Jubilee Trophy Accompaniment optional. Any combination of 2 stringed instruments. Enter up to 3 pieces. Any age. Duet	Any	Up to 10 mins	£10.00
3840 DUET FOR ANY 2 STRINGED INSTRUMENTS (17yrs and under) Accompaniment optional. Combination of any 2 stringed intruments. Enter up to 3 pieces. Own choice. Duet	17 and under	Up to 8 mins	£10.00
3850 DUET FOR ANY 2 STRINGED INSTRUMENT (12yrs and under) Accompaniment optional. Any combination of 2 stringed instruments. Enter up to 3 pieces. Any age.	12 and under	Up to 8 mins	£10.00
3860 STRINGS CHAMBER MUSIC Award: The Helen Thatcher Challenge Trophy Any combination of 3 or more players, one performer to a part, not conducted. Stringed instruments only, including plucked, with or without piano. Own choice. Enter up to 3 pieces. Arrangements allowed. Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	See notes for group fees

NOVICE CLASSES AND NON-COMPETITIVE CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
3870 NON-COMPETITIVE MEMORY CLASS An opportunity to test your memorisation skills in a non-competitive situation, playing one piece of your own choice.	Any	Up to 8 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)

DUETS & ENSEMBLES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
3880 DUET FOR ANY STRINGED INSTRUMENT AND PIANO Both performers will be adjudicated. Own choice. Duet	Any	Up to 8 mins	£10.00