

Ensemble Syllabus
24th November 2026

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ENSEMBLES Syllabus

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

Rosie Whitfield

Dip RCM Performers, ARCM Teachers, PGCE

Rosie's experience as a performer, teacher, examiner and presenter, teamed with an innate love of music, underpins her drive for music in education. Her ability to captivate audiences and inspire young musicians to achieve their dreams stems from a belief that music can change lives.

As an experienced adjudicator for The British and International Federation of Festivals, Rosie is called upon to adjudicate in the UK and abroad and has forged long-standing links with specialist music schools and festivals across the world.

As Director of Music at Whitgift School, Rosie devised numerous projects and regularly presented interactive concerts and masterclasses to thousands of primary school pupils. Developing the prestigious Whitgift International Music Competition in 2013, she continues to support and mentor young musicians hoping for a career in the profession.

As Head of Junior Guildhall since 2020, her knowledge and experience in the specialist music sector is invaluable. Her revolutionary PLAY2ME service encourages young performers to perform to her or one of her team for constructive feedback before a major performance.

As Executive Director for Scolimus, Rosie and her team of consultants provide a bespoke service for Young Musicians, Festivals and Music Schools across the world.

ENSEMBLES, BANDS, ORCHESTRAS etc. WHERE COMBINATIONS OF DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS ARE INVOLVED

Class	Age	Time	Fee
4000 SCHOOL ORCHESTRA Award: The Committee Shield Please note school year groups are as at the time of the upcoming Festival. Any combination of strings, recorders, wind and percussion. Own choice. Group of any size	Reception to Year 6	Up to 10 mins	See notes for group fees
4010 SCHOOL ORCHESTRA Award: The Shoeburyness High School Shield Please note school year groups are as at the time of the upcoming Festival. Any combination of strings, recorders, wind and percussion. Own choice. Group of any size	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 15 mins	See notes for group fees

Class	Age	Time	Fee
4020 COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA Award: The Shoeburyness High School Shield Any age and combination of strings, recorders, wind and percussion. Own choice Group of any size	Any	Up to 15 mins	See notes for group fees
4030 MELODY ENSEMBLE WITH PERCUSSION Please note school year groups are as at the time of the upcoming Festival. Own choice. Melody to be played by any combination of instruments (wind, brass, strings, percussion), supported by rhythmic percussion. Piano/keyboard accompaniment optional. Group of any size	Reception to Year 6	Up to 15 mins	See notes for group fees
4040 CONCERT BAND Award: The Music for Pleasure Shield Any combination of instruments. Own choice. Group of any size	Any	Up to 15 mins	See notes for group fees
4050 CONCERT ENSEMBLE Award: The Joy Family Award for Concert Ensemble Any combination of 3 or more players, one to a part. Own choice. Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	See notes for group fees
4060 CHAMBER MUSIC Award: The Southend-on-Sea Chamber Music Club Challenge Cup & Cash Prize of £20 Any combination of 2 or more players, one player to a part. Original chamber music instrumentation, no arrangements. Not conducted. Own choice. There is no objection to the same player performing in more than one ensemble. Group of any size	Any	Up to 10 mins	See notes for group fees
4070 CHAMBER MUSIC Award: The Gerald Usher Challenge Bowl Any combination of 2 or more players, one player to a part. Arrangements may be used. Not conducted. Own choice. There is no objection to the same player performing in more than one ensemble. Group of any size	Any	Up to 10 mins	See notes for group fees
4071 CHAMBER MUSIC Award: The Annette Forkin Challenge Trophy Please note school year groups are as at the time of the upcoming Festival. Chamber Music. Any combination of 2 or more players, one player to a part. Arrangements may be used. Not conducted. Own choice. There is no objection to the same player performing in more than one ensemble. Group of any size	Reception to Year 11	Up to 10 mins	See notes for group fees

Class	Age	Time	Fee
4150 FAMILY CLASS Award: The Eileen Greaves Trophy for Family Class Own choice. This class is open to members of the same family or household. Duets, trios, quartets or groups composed of any number of participants may be entered and may be vocal or instrumental or a combination of both. Standard of work will be taken into consideration. Group of any size	Any	Up to 6 mins	See notes for group fees
4200 GROUP MUSIC MAKING Award: The Music Man Project Cup Own choice. For those with a learning disability who enjoy making music in a group. Any combination of instruments may be used - including voices. Your group may be led by one or more helpers. To be held on the Tuesday morning of Woodwind and Brass Section. Group of any size	Any	Up to 15 mins	See notes for group fees