



All Instruments Syllabus

22nd November 2026

Festival Sponsors & Partners



ALL INSTRUMENTS &/OR VOICES 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 individuality

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

Trophies 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)

EDNA HEAD AWARD

Class	Age	Time	Fee
<p>6000 EDNA HEAD AWARD 17 years and under</p> <p>Award: 1st Prize - £500, 2nd Prize £100 at the adjudicator's discretion Own Choice. The Edna Head Award was founded by Ron Head in memory of his wife. Ron and Edna both loved music and attended many festivals and concerts enjoying seeing talented young people making music.</p> <p>As they had no children of their own Ron, who was a keen amateur musician himself, wanted to pass on their love of music to others and for this award to encourage young people to continue their studies and to help with their tuition.</p> <p>The class is an own choice programme of contrasting pieces; balance of programme will be taken into consideration. All instruments - piano, strings (plucked or bowed), woodwind & brass</p> <p>In the event of there being over eight entries a preliminary audition to be a video recording of between 4-8 minutes of music, from the final programme will be required.</p> <p>No more than 8 candidates to be put through to a "live" final during the Festival. Candidates must have obtained Grade 8 from any recognised examination board. Past winners cannot re-enter until 3 clear years have passed or are playing a different instrument.</p> <p>A copy of the preliminary audition music for the Adjudicator must be emailed to the General Secretary within 3 days of entry closing date.</p> <p>Please also upload your video via YouTube and submit your link within the same email.</p> <p>Please note that repertoire entered in other festival classes may not be used in this class.</p>	17 and under	Up to 15 mins	£10.00

ORIGINAL COMPOSITION CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
<p>6100 ANY INSTRUMENT OR VOICE ORIGINAL COMPOSITION (SENIOR) 16 years and over</p> <p>Award: The Joan McCrimmon Cup</p> <p>To be performed (without repeats) by the composer, or performers of their choice. A copy for the Adjudicator must be emailed to the General Secretary within 3 days of entry closing date. Date of performance subject to genre of composition.</p>	16 and over	Up to 5 mins	£8.00 (Under 18 £7.00)
<p>6101 ANY INSTRUMENT OR VOICE ORIGINAL COMPOSITION (INTERMEDIATE) 13-15 years</p> <p>To be performed (without repeats) by the composer, or performers of their choice. A copy for the Adjudicator must be emailed to the General Secretary within 3 days of entry closing date. Date of performance subject to genre of composition.</p>	Age 13 - 15	Up to 5 mins	£7.00
<p>6102 ANY INSTRUMENT OR VOICE ORIGINAL COMPOSITION (JUNIOR) 12 years and under</p> <p>To be performed (without repeats) by the composer, or performers of their choice. A copy for the Adjudicator must be emailed to the General Secretary within 3 days of entry closing date. Date of performance subject to genre of composition.</p>	12 and under	Up to 5 mins	£7.00