WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

MARR'S BAR SESSIONS SYLLABUS







Rock & Pop

JAZZ BLUES SOUL
REGGAE R&B HIP-HOP
RAP COUNTRY EDM

COVERS OR ORIGINAL WORK

DJ DAY

Upton upon Severn sunshine MUSIC FESTIVAL

THE MARR'S BAR

SEP/OCT 2026



Thursday 10 September
Music Spoken Here - Boomslang
£15 on the door (Free for MSH Members)

Friday 11 September - Sunday 13
Worcester Music Festival 2026
5:00 pm - 11:30 pm
FREE ENTRY

Thursday 17 September
Music Spoken Here - Frederico Heliodoro
£18 on the door (Free for MSH Members)

Friday 18 September
Steal This Band (System Of A Down tribute) / ToneDefs (Deftones tribute)
£14 in advance, £17 on the door

Saturday 19 September
The Pop Punk Revolution Tour With: (Blink 182, Sum 41, Green Day tributes)
£15 in advance, £18 on the door

Sunday 20 September
Music Spoken Here - Living In Shadows
£15 on the door (Free for MSH Members)

Thursday 24 September
Music Spoken Here - Neil Angilley Trio
£15 on the door (Free for MSH Members)

Friday 25 September
80's Alive
£10 in advance, £15 on the door

Saturday 26 September
StuFest 2
£10 in advance, more on the door

Thursday 1 October
The Boneshakers / Adam Giles Levy
£18 in advance, £23 on the door

Friday 2 October
Ultimate Coldplay (Coldplay tribute)
£20 in advance, £25 on the door

Saturday 3 October
AC/DShe (AC/DC tribute)
£10 in advance £15 on the door

Thursday 8 October
Music Spoken Here - Klara Devlin Quartet
£17 on the door (Free for MSH Members)

Friday 9 October
Maniac Street Preachers (tribute) vs Stereoironics (Stereophonics tribute)
£12 in advance, £16 on the door

Saturday 10 October
Downloaded Tribute Band
£15 in advance, £20 on the door

Sunday 11 October
The Boatman's End of Tour Party
Rub a dub pub club, Severn Kollective, Capas & The Rain Makers
£10 early bird, £14 advance, £18 door

Thursday 15 October
A Different Thread / Nastee Chapel
£10 in advance, £15 on the door

Friday 16 October
Gaz Brookfield
£15 in advance, £20 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night - FREE entry

www.marrsbar.co.uk
01905 613336

Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue
Available for private hire

MARR'S BAR SESSIONS (Rock, Pop, Jazz... any style welcome!) Syllabus

Once again, we are delighted to be partnering with Worcester's premier contemporary music venue, The Marr's Bar, for two days of Rock and Pop sections on Sundays 7th and 14th March 2027. We are also further developing our partnership with Sunshine Festival following another successful Sunshine Arts Stage this summer, hosted by WCAF. The Sunshine Arts Stage showcased multiple young artists, promoting a wealth of local talent. Some acts even got to perform on the Main Stage before the headliners! We hope to offer similar exciting opportunities in 2027.

The Rock and Pop sections are relaxed, fun and exciting performance opportunities, enabling performers to showcase their talents in a professional venue. We welcome instrumental and vocal soloists, as well as bands/groups performing any and all styles of music, including Jazz, Blues, Rap, Reggae, Soul, Hip-Hop, RnB, Country, EDM and many more. There are competitive and non-competitive opportunities to perform. We love to hear both original work and cover versions.

Entry for bands/groups is free of charge and a substantial 'early bird' discount is available for soloists until 1st December. 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

We are trying to make entering as easy as possible for everyone, so please ensure you answer all the questions as you make the entry. To make an entry, simply go to the PlayandPerform platform, choose whether you will be entering as a soloist or a group (you are more than welcome to do both!), your preferred date, and whether you will be performing your own work or cover versions. Then, once all entries have been received, we will divide entries into sections as fairly as possible using factors such as availability, age, number of performers in the group, type of instruments, choice of songs, and performing experience etc. We will make sure everyone has the chance to perform with their own age group/ability/style of music, wherever possible. Please don't worry - we will make the sections as fair as possible for everyone.

You can choose to perform as many songs as you wish within the time limit, but please remember WCAF is family-friendly, so consider any lyrics and 'keep it clean', folks!. You do not have to state the names of the songs/pieces you will be performing at the time of entry (just put TBC). Chosen song(s)/pieces should ideally be performed from memory.

If you are using backing tracks in your performance, we will be in contact after entries close in January to ensure that these are sent to us as soon as possible.

This year, the number of entries is strictly limited, so please don't delay. Your entry is not confirmed until payment is received.

The Marr's Bar will be open to paying spectators during these classes and therefore it is essential that any performer under the age of 18 is accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. ID may be requested. Bring along your supporters (entry tickets allow them to stay, enjoy the amazing performances and have a fantastic time!)

Please do not hesitate to get in contact should you have any queries: admin@wcaf.org.uk

Solo

Soloists may enter on any instrument or voice. We have tried to simplify entries this year, so please ensure you answer all the questions as you make the entry. We will then divide the sections by age, the type of music you are playing and/or by the makeup/size of your group. Please don't worry - we will make the sections as fair as possible for everyone. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Any number of songs can be played within the time limit, but don't worry if you just want to perform one. We will have a compere to announce your act, but all performances should be introduced by the performer. Time limits must be adhered to and the time limit includes any introductions and/or speaking between songs.

Backing tracks are permitted, but 'live' accompaniment is preferred. You may accompany yourself on any instrument, or may bring an accompanist if you choose. If backing tracks are used, they must be uploaded by 16th January 2027 to PlayandPerform. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us: admin@wcaf.org.uk

Class	Age	Time	Fee
700 SOLO - ORIGINALS Any instrument or voice. Originals only - cover versions must not be included.	Any	Up to 8 mins	£12.80
701 SOLO - COVER VERSIONS Any instrument or voice. Cover versions only.	Any	Up to 8 mins	£12.80
702 ROCK AND POP SOLO Any instrument or voice. Simply perform your own songs and/or cover versions to a supportive audience. No place will be given but the adjudicator will give constructive feedback. This is ideal for those with limited experience of public performing.	Any	Up to 8 mins	£12.80

Groups/Ensembles

Groups may be made up of any combination of instruments and/or vocalists. Groups can be any size from 2 performers upwards and the overall (rather than individual) performance will be assessed. All performances should be introduced by one of the performers. Any number of songs can be played within the time limit, but don't worry if you just want to perform one or two. The time limit includes any introductions and/or speaking between songs. Individuals may perform as part of more than one group.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied (for example, if a group is made up only of vocalists) and it is fine for music teachers to accompany a group of students on any instrument or to play as part of the group, if necessary. Backing tracks are permitted but 'live' accompaniment is preferred. If you are using backing tracks, they must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 16th January 2027.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
703 ROCK/POP GROUP - ORIGINALS Originals only - cover versions must not be included. Group of any size	Any	Up to 15 mins	£0.00 per group

Class	Age	Time	Fee
704 ROCK/POP GROUP - COVER VERSIONS Cover versions only. Group of any size	Any	Up to 15 mins	£0.00 per group
705 NON-COMPETITIVE ROCK/POP GROUP Award: Non-competitive Simply perform your own songs and/or cover versions to a supportive audience. No place will be given but the adjudicator will give constructive feedback. This is ideal for those with limited experience of public performing. Group of any size	Any	Up to 15 mins	£0.00 per group

DJ

This year, we are hoping to have a separate DJ day on Sunday 21st March. Venue to be announced! All styles of music are welcome.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
706 DJ	Any	Up to 10 mins	£12.80

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.

WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL RULES (2027)
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.