Piano Syllabus
20th-22nd November 2026

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PIANO Syllabus

19th - 22nd November 2026
Piano Committee
Convenor: Jena Chun-Wah Pang MA (Oxon) PGDL, BIFF Adjudicator
Section Committee: Jena Chun-Wah Pang Isobel Kennedy, Avril Childs, Natrah Akib, Rachel Chander, Jacqueline Pipe

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)

Adjudicator

Joseph Tong

MA(Cantab), DipRAM, LRAM, ARAM

Joseph Tong has established a reputation as one of the most versatile and imaginative pianists of his generation. He studied at Wells Cathedral School, Cambridge University and at the Royal Academy of Music in London with Christopher Elton. Much in demand as a soloist, duo pianist and chamber musician, Joseph made his Wigmore Hall recital debut in 1997 as winner of the Maisie Lewis Young Artists Award and now gives regular recitals throughout the UK and Europe.

Joseph Tong has been particularly associated with the piano music of Jean Sibelius, having recorded three discs of a complete cycle for the Quartz label to critical acclaim and performing regularly in Finland over recent years. He has twice been invited to play at the Korpo Sibelius Festival, taking part in a Sibelius piano 'marathon' with five other pianists in 2019, and has given several recitals on the composer's original Steinway at Ainola. Joseph has also performed at the Helsinki Musiikkitalo (Camerata Hall), Hämeenlinna City Hall, the Sibelius Museum in Turku and, most recently, at the 2024 Joensuu Music Festival.

Other recent projects have included a new commission from the British composer David Matthews, a set of Five Trees which Joseph premiered at the Three Choirs Festival in 2022. He also performed the new work at the Sibelius Museum in Turku as part of a collaboration with the Åbo University Foundation, recording a third album of Sibelius's piano music which was released in 2023.

Joseph has made several critically acclaimed recordings as a soloist and chamber musician including a disc of Schumann, released in 2019 on the Quartz label, which was awarded Instrumental Choice in BBC Music Magazine. Much in demand as a collaborative pianist, his recording of Sibelius works for violin and piano with the British violinist Fenella Humphreys on Resonus Classics was selected as 'Chamber Choice' in BBC Music Magazine in 2022 and featured on BBC Radio 3's Record Review programme. Joseph has also made piano duet recordings of Schubert, Debussy and McCabe in his longstanding duo with Waka Hasegawa, with whom he performed at Wigmore Hall in London, at Music Festivals including Cheltenham, Buxton, York and Oundle as well as in Japan and USA.

He also performs regularly with his brother Daniel, having appeared on Radio 3's In Tune together and giving recent piano duet recitals at Conway Hall in London, St David's Hall Cardiff, and the Laidlaw Music Centre at the University of St Andrews.

In 2022 he returned to Wigmore Hall to give a solo recital featuring Schubert's Wanderer Fantasy, marking 200 years since the work was written. Other recent highlights have included solo recitals in Spain and Germany including the Sendesaal in Bremen and Kloster Konzerte in St. Blasien, St George's Bristol, Chichester Cathedral, Hatchlands in Surrey and the Presteigne Festival in Wales.

A passionate advocate for new music, Joseph gave the world premiere of Lara Poe's Koivunrungot Kaarella at Presteigne last summer and has recently commissioned a new work, The Willows Suite, from the Finnish pianist-composer Terhi Dostal.

Joseph was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM) in 2008 and has been a music adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals since 2019. He is one of the senior piano tutors at Wells Cathedral School and coordinator of the Wells International Piano Summer School. Joseph will also be joining the faculty of the Chetham's International Piano Summer School in 2025 and has recently been invited to adjudicate piano prizes at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

SENIOR PIANO SOLO CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1010 RECITAL - Senior (Amateur or Professional) 16 years and over Award: The Laura Matilda Bacon Cup, The Jena Pang Senior Piano Recital Cash Prize of £50 Competitors are required to perform 2 or 3 pieces of their own choice in contrasted style from any 2 or 3 of the following 4 periods: (a) Early period (prior to 1750); (b) Classical (c) Romantic; (d) Composed from 1900 onwards. Consideration will be given in the marking to the choice of the programme.	16 and over	Up to 20 mins	£10.50
1020 20TH/21ST CENTURY MUSIC - Senior (Amateur or Professional) 16 years and over Award: The Douglas Oates Memorial Cup Own choice of one piece of any piano music composed from 1900 onwards to present date, excluding jazz and music from films/ musicals which have separate classes..	16 and over	Up to 8 mins	£8.50
1030 CHOPIN & LISZT - Senior (Amateur or Professional) 16 years and over Award: The M Lawton Challenge Cup Any one composition by Chopin or Liszt.	16 and over	Up to 10 mins	£8.50
1040 MOZART, HAYDN & BEETHOVEN - Senior (Amateur or Professional) 16 years and over Award: The Clare Christison Challenge Cup Own choice of one work or movement by any of the above.	16 and over	Up to 10 mins	£8.50
1050 BAROQUE - Senior (Amateur or Professional) 16 years and over Award: The Jena Pang Rose Bowl Own choice of Baroque work composed between 1600 - 1750 excluding any Romantic/ Modern transcriptions and arrangements	16 and over	Up to 8 mins	£8.50
1060 RAGS, BLUES and JAZZ - Senior (Amateur or Professional) 16 years and over Own choice of one piece, improvisation optional.	16 and over	Up to 6 mins	£8.50
1070 ETUDE/STUDY - Senior (Amateur or Professional) 16 years and over Award: The Vera Grand Challenge Cup Own choice of one etude or technical study by any composer.	16 and over	Up to 6 mins	£8.50
1080 PIANO SOLO - Senior (Amateur or Professional) 16 years and over Award: The Alfred Music Shield Own choice of one piece.	16 and over	Up to 10 mins	£8.50

JUNIOR PIANO SOLO CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1200 THE HONOR JACKSON JUNIOR RECITAL CLASS 15 years and under Award: The Honor Jackson Memorial Trophy for Piano Playing, Cash Prize of £25 donated by Jena Pang Competitors are required to perform 2 or 3 pieces of their own choice in contrasted style from any 2 or 3 of the following 4 periods: (a) Early period (prior to 1750); (b) Classical (c) Romantic; (d) Composed from 1900 onwards. Consideration will be given in the marking to the choice of the programme.	15 and under	Up to 15 mins	£10.50
1210 20TH/21ST CENTURY MUSIC - Junior 15 years and under Award: The Benney Memorial Cup Own choice of one piece of any piano music composed from 1900 onwards to present date, excluding jazz and music from films/ musicals which have separate classes.	15 and under	Up to 5 mins	£7.50
1220 CHOPIN & LISZT - Junior 15 years and under Award: The Agnes Bateson Memorial Cup Any one composition by Chopin or Liszt.	15 and under	Up to 8 mins	£7.50
1230 MOZART, HAYDN & BEETHOVEN - Junior 15 years and under Award: The Eleanor Button Challenge Cup Own choice of one work or movement by any of the above composers.	15 and under	Up to 8 mins	£7.50
1240 BAROQUE - Junior 15 years and under Award: The Phyllis Miller Memorial Cup Own choice of baroque work composed between 1600 - 1750, excluding any Romantic/ Modern transcriptions and arrangements	15 and under	Up to 5 mins	£7.50
1250 JAZZ CLASS - Set Piece 15 years and under Pam Wedgwood: Jack in a Juke Box (with repeats) (Jazzin'About fun pieces for Piano (Faber)	15 and under	Up to 2 mins	£7.50
1260 RAGS, BLUES and JAZZ - Own Choice Junior 15 years and under Award: The Rowan Jazz Trophy Own choice of one piece, improvisation optional.	15 and under	Up to 5 mins	£7.50
1270 ETUDE/STUDY - Junior 15 years and under Award: The Amy Cheung Challenge Cup Own choice of one etude or technical study by any composer	15 and under	Up to 5 mins	£7.50
1280 PIANO SOLO - Set Piece 15 years and under Award: The Florence & Peggy Taffs Challenge Cup Granados: Valse Poetico No. 5 (with repeats; any Edition)	15 and under	Up to 2 mins	£7.50
1290 PIANO SOLO - Own Choice 15 years and under Award: The Margaret White Memorial Cup Own choice - one piece only.	15 and under	Up to 8 mins	£7.50

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1300 JUNIOR CLASSIC 13 years and under Award: The H J Harding Memorial Cup Beethoven: Romance (Second Movement) from Sonatina in G. Anh, 5 No 1 (Any Edition). No repeats.	13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£7.50
1310 PIANO SOLO - Own Choice 13 Years and under Own choice - one piece only.	13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£7.50
1320 PIANO SOLO - Set Piece 11/12 years Award: The Norah B Cable Challenge Cup Burgmuller: Arabesque op 100 No 2. Any edition. With repeats	Age 11 - 12	Up to 2 mins	£7.50
1330 PIANO SOLO - Own Choice 11/12 years Award: The Michael Lewis Silver Challenge Cup Own choice	Age 11 - 12	Up to 4 mins	£7.50
1340 PIANO SOLO - Set Piece 10 years and under Award: The Mrs Stevens Junior Challenge Cup Walter Carroll: Dwarfs of the Mist (Forest Fantasies; Forsyth)	10 and under	Up to 2 mins	£7.50
1350 PIANO SOLO - Set Piece 9/10 years Award: The Katie Ayers Cup (Pianoforte) Rebikov: Playing Soldiers (Classics to Moderns Book 2; Yorktown Press)	Age 9 - 10	Up to 2 mins	£7.50
1360 PIANO SOLO - Own Choice 9/10 years Award: The Muriel Muddiman Encouragement Trophy & Cash Prize of £25 Own choice	Age 9 - 10	Up to 3 mins	£7.50
1370 PIANO SOLO - Set Piece 7/8 years Award: The Joan Bransgrove Memorial Trophy Edmund Jolliffe: Pirates Coming! (Piano Star 3; ABRSM)	Age 7 - 8	Up to 2 mins	£6.00
1380 PIANO SOLO - Own Choice 7/8 years Award: The Cambridge Press Trophy for Piano Playing Own choice	Age 7 - 8	Up to 2 mins	£6.00
1390 PIANO SOLO - Set Piece 6 years and under Award: The Jane Cotton Trophy (set piece) Paul Hall: Spooks (Piano Time Pieces Book 1; OUP)	6 and under	Up to 2 mins	£6.00
1400 PIANO SOLO - Own Choice 6 years and under Award: The Jane Cotton Trophy (own choice) Own choice	6 and under	Up to 2 mins	£6.00

'ANY AGE' PIANO SOLO CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1500 CONCERTO CLASS (Amateur or Professional) Any Age Award: The Jena Pang Piano Concerto Award One movement from any Concerto or work for Piano and Orchestra. Performance time should not exceed 30 minutes, unless permission is specifically obtained from the Festival. NB Competitors are required to provide their own second pianist (not adjudicated). An electronic piano will be made available for this purpose.	Any	Up to 30 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
1510 IMPRESSIONIST STYLE CLASS (Amateur or Professional) Any Age Own choice of one composition in the Impressionist style	Any	Up to 10 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
1520 FILM MUSIC CLASS Any Age Award: The David Williams Performance Cup Own choice of one piece from Film, TV, Musical, or Game music.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
1530 NOCTURNE CLASS Any Age Award: The Isobel Kennedy Trophy Own choice of one nocturne by any composer.	Any	Up to 10 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
1540 FEMALE COMPOSER CLASS Any Age Own choice of one work by a female composer from any period. (Not intended for own compositions which have a separate class).	Any	Up to 6 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
1550 SPANISH/ LATINO MUSIC - Any Age Own Choice of music by a Spanish/ Latin American Composer or music in the Spanish Style of any era. One piece only	Any	Up to 10 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
1560 ACCOMPANIST CLASS (Amateur or Professional) Any Age Award: The Clare Christison Piano Accompaniment Trophy Competitors may accompany any solo instrumentalist or vocalist in music of their choice, excluding show songs and light ballads. Standard of choice will be taken into consideration; the piece may not be one performed by the same people in any other class in this Festival.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
1570 SPECIAL CLASS OF THE YEAR - Piano Music of British Composers - Any Age This is a special class celebrating British Piano Music. Own choice of any keyboard work of any British Composers from 1600 to present. The work chosen must be composed originally for a keyboard instrument (for example Virginals, Harpsichord, Piano) and not a transcription. One piece only.	Any	Up to 10 mins	£7.50 (Under 18 £8.50)

GRADED CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1600 PIANO INITIAL/GRADE 1 Any Age Award: The H C Taffs Memorial Shield Any one piece from the ABRSM/ Trinity/ LCME syllabus from 2010 onwards; excluding the jazz syllabus. Competitors must not have passed any grade higher than the one from which the choice is made.	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
1610 PIANO GRADES 2 & 3 Any Age Award: The L E Hyde Memorial Cup Any one piece from the ABRSM/ Trinity/ LCME syllabus from 2010 onwards; excluding the jazz syllabus. Competitors must not have passed any grade higher than the one from which the choice is made.	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
1620 PIANO GRADES 4 & 5 Any Age Award: The R L Richardson Memorial Cash Prize of £50 Any one piece from the ABRSM/ Trinity/ LCME syllabus from 2010 onwards; excluding the jazz syllabus. Competitors must not have passed any grade higher than the one from which the choice is made.	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
1630 PIANO GRADES 6 & 7 Any Age Award: The Eve Garwood Trophy & Cash Prize of £25 Any one piece from the ABRSM/ Trinity/ LCME syllabus from 2010 onwards; excluding the jazz syllabus. Competitors must not have passed any grade higher than the one from which the choice is made.	Any	Up to 4 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
1640 PIANO GRADE 8 & DIPLOMA Any Age Award: The Jena Pang Challenge Award Any one piece from the ABRSM/ Trinity/ LCME syllabus from 2010 onwards; excluding the jazz syllabus. Competitors must not have passed any grade higher than the one from which the choice is made.	Any	Up to 10 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)

NOVICE CLASSES AND NON-COMPETITIVE CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1700 PIANO NOVICE CLASS Any Age Award: The John Stewart Memorial Shield Competitors must not have been learning for more than 18 months at date of entry. Own choice.	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)

CLASSES FOR OTHER AGE GROUPS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1710 PIANO SOLO 60 years and over Own choice	60 and over	Up to 4 mins	£8.50

NOVICE CLASSES AND NON-COMPETITIVE CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1800 NON-COMPETITIVE CLASS Any Age Own choice. This class is ideal for those wishing to obtain feedback on a piece they are preparing for an audition/exam or for those who might be nervous about performing in front of others but who want to try in a non-competitive situation.	Any	Up to 5 mins	£8.50 (Under 18 £7.50)
1810 NON-COMPETITIVE MEMORY CLASS Any Age 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)

'ANY AGE' PIANO SOLO CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1820 NON-COMPETITIVE: PIANO MASTERCLASS - Any Age An opportunity for entrants to perform one own choice piece for solo piano, duet for 4 hands/ 2 pianos or movement from a piano concerto and work directly with the Adjudicator with extended verbal feedback and practical demonstration in front of an audience. This class is non-competitive and not graded. Repertoire should be of approximately Grade 6 standard or above. The duration of the piece must be stated at entry to assist with scheduling the length of time for each performance. Depending on the length of the piece each masterclass may be between 15 to 30 mins or longer. Pieces performed must not be entered in any other class within the Festival. If the repertoire chosen is longer than 30mins please contact piano@southendfestivalofperformingarts.com.	Any	Up to 30 mins	£20.00

DUETS & TRIOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1900 PIANO DUET - Teacher & Adult Pupil 18 years and over Own choice. Pupil only to be adjudicated. The pupil should pay a solo fee; no fee is payable by the Teacher.	18 and over	Up to 4 mins	£8.50
1910 PIANO DUET - Teacher & Pupil 17 years and under Award: The Andrew Palmer Cup Own choice. Pupil only to be adjudicated. The pupil should pay a solo fee; no fee is payable by the Teacher.	17 and under	Up to 4 mins	£7.50
1930 PIANO DUET 15 years and under Award: The D J Rowland Challenge Cup Own choice Duet	15 and under	Up to 4 mins	£10.00
1940 PIANO DUET 10 years and under Award: The H T Neath Memorial Shield Own choice. Duet	10 and under	Up to 4 mins	£10.00
1950 PIANO DUET - Family Class Any Age Award: The Chan Family Trophy Any two members of a family. Own choice. Duet	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.00
1960 PIANO DUET (including works composed for 2 pianos) Any Age Own choice of any work for 4 hands including duets for 2 pianos. On entry please confirm whether a second piano is required. Duet	Any	Up to 8 mins	£10.00
1970 TRIO/ QUARTET, 1 PIANO, 6/8 HANDS Any Age Award: The Margaret Helen Mills Challenge Cup Own choice Group of 2 to 3 people	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.00