All Instruments Syllabus
22nd November 2026

Festival Sponsors & Partners

COVENT GARDEN BOX OFFICE

Caddies

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS & REGISTERED AUDITORS
BUCKLEY WATSON
INCORPORATING MASONS, TOMLYNS & ACCOUNTING KIWI

KEMP'S CASTLES INFLATABLE HIRE

Badge Boy
BadgeBoy.co.uk

CLIFFS PAVILION & PALACE THEATRE
SOUTHEND

South East Essex Schools'
SINGING IN HARMONY
Music Association

ALLEYN COURT PREPARATORY SCHOOL

FOR
BRAND, GROWTH & WEB STUDIO

KAWAI

TRIP BOOTH

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 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.

EDNA HEAD AWARD

Class	Age	Time	Fee
6000 EDNA HEAD AWARD 17 years and under 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. 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. 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 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. 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. A copy of the preliminary audition music for the Adjudicator must be emailed to the General Secretary within 3 days of entry closing date. Please also upload your video via YouTube and submit your link within the same email. Please note that repertoire entered in other festival classes may not be used in this class.	17 and under	Up to 15 mins	£10.00

ORIGINAL COMPOSITION CLASSES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
6100 ANY INSTRUMENT OR VOICE ORIGINAL COMPOSITION (SENIOR) 16 years and over Award: The Joan McCrimmon Cup 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.	16 and over	Up to 5 mins	£8.00 (Under 18 £7.00)
6101 ANY INSTRUMENT OR VOICE ORIGINAL COMPOSITION (INTERMEDIATE) 13-15 years 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.	Age 13 - 15	Up to 5 mins	£7.00
6102 ANY INSTRUMENT OR VOICE ORIGINAL COMPOSITION (JUNIOR) 12 years and under 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.	12 and under	Up to 5 mins	£7.00