



springboard

brighton & hove performing arts festival

CELEBRATING 100+ YEARS

Guitar Syllabus

Sunday 2 March 2025

Venue: Music Performance Space, Brighton Girls, Montpelier Road, Brighton BN1 3AT

Section secretary: James Westbrook (j@theguitarmuseum.com)

The Springboard Guitar day is open to players at all levels.

Please take time to read the rules below to ensure that you enter the appropriate class.

The deadline for entries is the close of 26 January 2025.

PLEASE NOTE that Springboard reserves the right not to refund entry fees if an entrant decides to withdraw.

Rules

- 1 Guitars must be equipped with nylon strings, unless otherwise stated.
- 2 Players may choose which piece(s) to play, subject to the criteria and time limits stated.
- 3 Grades - This term is a rough guide as to standard. Music played may or may not include actual exam music of the Associated Board, or Trinity College London, but should not exceed the grade requirement.
- 4 Please note that all performers (excluding accompanists) must be amateurs (someone in full-time or higher education or who does not derive their main income from performance or teaching a string instrument).
- 5 Performers are asked to pay close attention to the time limit for each class, as a performance that is over the limit may not be adjudicated.
- 6 A copy of the music to be performed, with the composer and title of the piece clearly marked is required for the Adjudicator for all classes.
- 7 Performers must book and pay for their own accompanist, where needed. Please see <http://www.springboardfestival.co.uk/information/accompanists/> for a list of local accompanists.
- 8 A player may perform a piece only once in the Festival. The same piece may not be played in two

different classes, even if the classes are in different sections of the Festival.

9 Please ensure you are familiar with all general rules and regulations of the festival
<http://www.springboardfestival.co.uk/information/general-rules-regulations/>

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Adjudicator

Gerard Cousins

Gerard Cousins was the first guitarist to successfully create solo guitar versions of Philip Glass's music and was invited to release his recording on Glass's own record label. The album featured on the front page of Apple Music and has been streamed well over a million times. Gerard was then asked by Grammy award winning choral composer Eric Whitacre to create guitar versions of his choral works and they created an EP which was playlisted on Classic FM and has so far been streamed over 8 million times.

Gerard has had entire radio programmes dedicated to his music on both BBC Radio and France Musique and he appeared as a finalist on Sky Arts TV programme 'Guitar Star'.

Gerard Cousins is a graduate of the University of Leeds and Enschede Conservatorium (Netherlands) where he specialised in performance and composition. He has played in festivals and concert halls around the world and has released 9 albums.

Gerard's compositions are often featured in films and TV. He was the first 'Composer in Residence' at Cardiff Guitar Festival and recently completed his first Guitar Concerto which he premiered at MusicFest Aberystwyth.

AWARDS

GUITAR SOLO - OPEN RECITAL: Award of £30 donated by David Whiteman to the player with the highest mark.

CONCERTO: Festival medal and award of £40 donated by Christopher Liu to the player with the highest mark.

TARO TAKEUCHI PERIOD INSTRUMENT CLASS: A private master class with Taro Takeuchi in Brighton & Hove.

BACH CLASS: The Bach Trophy

Non-Competitive Classes

Performers will receive general remarks and written feedback from the adjudicator, but no mark.

150 BEGINNERS & GRADE 1

Fee £8.00

16 and under. Up to 2 mins.

151 GRADES 2 & 3

Fee £8.00

16 and under. Up to 2 mins.

152 GRADES 4 & 5

Fee £9.00

16 and under. Up to 3 mins.

153 ADULT NOVICE

Guitar music, grades 1 to 3

Fee £9.50

16 and over. Up to 4 mins.

154 ADVANCED PERFORMANCE

This class is open to anyone who does not derive their main income from music performance (this can include some teachers). Entrants may play solo or in combination with other instruments.

Own choice of contrasting pieces of grade 6 and above standard.

Fee £12.00

Up to 7 mins.

155 EARLY MUSIC

Award: Class sponsored by James Westbrook.

Any piece composed before 1700.

Fee £9.50

Up to 4 mins.

156 SELF-ACCOMPANIED SONG

Any age.

Song with guitar accompaniment. Any kind of acoustic guitar (nylon or steel strung). Score not necessary.

Fee £9.50

Up to 4 mins.

157 ACOUSTIC STEEL-STRUNG

Any age.

Includes all styles of music (jazz, blues, ragtime etc.) Score not necessary.

Fee £9.50

Up to 4 mins.

158 FLAMENCO

Any age.

Score not necessary.

Fee £9.50

Up to 4 mins.

159 UKULELE

Any age.

Solo or self-accompaniment. Score not necessary.

Fee £9.50

Up to 4 mins.

Workshop

This class is FREE to anyone who has entered another class.

160 FUN WORKSHOP

Grade 3 and above & intermediate chord players.

This class is FREE to anyone who has entered another class. Music will be distributed before the event. Please ensure you bring the music and your music stand and footstool.

Fee £8.00

Competitive Solo Classes

161 BEGINNERS & GRADE 1

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £9.00

16 and under. Up to 3 mins.

162 GRADES 1 & 2

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £9.00

16 and under. Up to 3 mins.

163 GRADES 3 & 4

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £9.50

16 and under. Up to 4 mins.

164 GRADES 5 AND ABOVE

Award: Festival medal.

Fee £10.50

16 and under. Up to 5 mins.

165 ADULT INTERMEDIATE - COMPETITIVE

Guitar music, grades 3 to 5.

Fee £10.50

16 and over. Up to 5 mins.

166 BACH

Award: The Bach Trophy

Any music by J. S. Bach.

Fee £11.00

Up to 6 mins.

167 TARO TAKEUCHI PERIOD INSTRUMENT

Award: A private master class with Mr Takeuchi, in Brighton & Hove.

Any piece played on a plucked fretted original or reproduction instrument (from lute/vihuela to early nineteenth-century guitar).

Fee £11.00

Up to 6 mins.

168 SET PIECE

Set Piece: Any composition, transcription, or arrangement by Francisco Tarrega

Fee £11.00

Up to 6 mins.

169 OPEN RECITAL

Award: £30 donated by David Whiteman to the player with the highest mark. Sponsored anonymously.

Own choice of contrasting pieces of grade 6 and above standard.

Fee £18.00

Up to 12 mins.

170 CONCERTO

Award: Festival medal; £40 awarded donated by Christopher Liu to the player with the highest mark.

One or more movements of a concerto. Orchestral parts must be played as a piano arrangement.

Only the performance of the soloist will be adjudicated.

Fee £22.00

Up to 15 mins.

Ensemble Classes

171 GUITAR DUET (11 YEARS AND UNDER) COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medals.

Any number of pieces within the time limit.

Fee £9.50

Group of 2 people

11 and under. Up to 4 mins.

172 GUITAR DUET (12 YEARS AND OVER) COMPETITIVE

Award: Festival medals.

Any number of pieces within the time limit.

Fee £10.50

Group of 2 people

12 and over. Up to 5 mins.

173 GUITAR ENSEMBLES (11 YEARS AND UNDER) COMPETITIVE

Award: Class sponsored by Lisa Fitzgerald

Any number of pieces within the time limit.

Must contain at least one guitarist and can include any number of other instrumentalists or singers.

Fee £15.00 per group

Group of a minimum of 3 people

11 and under. Up to 8 mins.

174 GUITAR ENSEMBLES - NON-COMPETITIVE

Award: Class sponsored by Vic Ellis.

Any number of pieces within the time limit.

Must contain at least one guitarist and can include any number of other instrumentalists or singers.

Fee £15.00 per group

Group of a minimum of 3 people

Up to 8 mins.

175 UKULELE ENSEMBLE - NON-COMPETITIVE

Any number of pieces within the time limit.

Can contain any number of instrumentalists or singers, but the majority must be ukulele players.

Fee £15.00 per group

Group of any size

Up to 8 mins.