Tunbridge Wells Arts Festival

Syllabus 2027

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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME!

Welcome to the 2027 Tunbridge Wells Arts Festival which takes place on 6th and 7th March 2027. We pride ourselves on being a friendly and welcoming festival, with the emphasis on enjoyment and learning in a relaxed atmosphere. Whether you are just starting out, or have already reached a high level of competence, you will find classes in which to celebrate your musical, oratorical and dramatic achievements.

OPENING & CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES

Entries open on 1st November 2026 and close on 24th January 2027 or earlier if sold out. Please be aware that we limit choir entries to no more than four per class.

OUTLINE TIMETABLE AVAILABLE

An outline timetable for the weekend is available to view on the website at twaf.co.uk and on the online entry system.

GEMS CONCERT AND PRIZE GIVING

This prestigious and highly enjoyable event will once again take place at Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on the afternoon of Sunday 21 March 2027. The concert showcases a varied selection of the Festival's outstanding performances, followed by the presentation of trophies. Additionally, a number of special awards will be made at the concert to individuals selected by the Committee. Please note that trophies will ONLY be available for presentation at the GEMS event; there is no alternative provision for collection.

The Townsend Award - awarded by the Mayor
The Alison Macfadyen 70th Anniversary Cup & Award of £125 for an outstanding performance
The Joyce Ashton Memorial Plate & Award of £75 for excellence in Speech & Drama
The Mary Romney Award of £75 for excellence in Music
The Denis Lawrence Rose Bowl & Award of £75 to the most promising performer under 15 years
The Festival Cup awarded to the most promising performer under 11 years
The Celia Barstow Trophy awarded to an outstanding pianist
The June and John Hill Trophy awarded to an outstanding singer
The PPP Challenge Cup awarded to an outstanding strings player
The PPP Challenge Cup awarded to an outstanding woodwind or brass player
The Goulden-Robert Stace Cup for the highest Recorder Solo or Duet mark

OFFICIAL ACCOMPANISTS

Singers and instrumentalists may bring their own accompanist or engage one of the festival's official accompanists subject to availability. Please indicate if you wish to book them when making your entry.

ENQUIRIES

Please submit your question via the Enquiries link on the online entry system homepage.

General Rules and Regulations

1 ENTRIES: All entries must be made via online booking, and require online payment. Entries are accepted at the discretion of the Committee. Entries may close early if numbers have reached the maximum.

Classes may be merged or divided according to the number of entries received.

Entries are accepted on the understanding that all entrants have read and accepted the Regulations and associated polices of the Festival (Child Performance Licensing, Safeguarding and Data Protection)

2 REFUNDS: No refund of fees will be made unless the Committee finds it necessary to alter or cancel any class.

3 ELIGIBILITY: Only amateurs may enter competitive classes. Professionals may enter non-competitive classes, and may take part in competitive classes as a conductor, an accompanist or a performer in the Original Composition class (although not as the composer).

No person who is being, or who has been taught by an Adjudicator for any class may compete in that class.

4 AGE GROUPS: In age group classes, performers must enter the correct class according to their school year. No performer is allowed to enter a class where there is another class in the same discipline for a younger age group for which they would qualify.

5 NUMBER OF ENTRIES PER PERFORMER: Only one entry may be made in each solo class, and the same piece may not be performed in more than one class. A performer may enter more than once in a duet, trio, quartet or ensemble class providing a different part is performed each time with a different partner.

A maximum of five classes may be entered per half day. Any classes which cannot be attended as a result of over-booking will not be refunded.

6 ADJUDICATORS: The Committee reserves the right to appoint a different Adjudicator if the one announced is unable to attend, or if additional help is needed.

7 ATTENDANCE: Performers must report to the Session President in time for the start of their class unless prior notice has been given to the Session President of difficulties relating to other commitments within the Festival. Those absent at the appointed time will be able to compete only at the discretion of the Session President. Entry to or exit from a Performance Room will not be permitted during individual performances or adjudications.

8 PERFORMANCE: Performers are required to complete their performance within the stated time limit. Overruns are liable to deduction of marks.
A paper copy of the piece to be performed must be provided for the Adjudicator at the time of performance. Copies are destroyed after performance in accordance with copyright legislation.

9 COMPLAINTS: In the event of a complaint, please put your submission in writing to the Festival Secretary by the end of the festival weekend. The complaint will be reviewed upon receipt of a £30 fee. The fee will be be refunded if the protest is upheld. Under no circumstances should the Adjudicator be approached with any complaint over marking or any other matter.

10 RECORDING: The use of recording equipment of any kind during the course of any class is forbidden, and anyone violating this rule will be asked to leave the class.
An official photographer may be present at the festival. If parents do not wish their children to be photographed, the responsible adult attending with the performer must ensure they are withdrawn.

11 MARKING & AWARDS: Marking is in accordance with the standardisation system operated by the British and International Federation of Festivals

DEVELOPING (65-69) A performance demonstrating an awareness of technical skills, requiring more consistency & artistry.

PROGRESSING (70-74) A performance showing development of technique and/or communication and commitment.

MERIT (75-79) A competent performance, showing some artistic awareness and/or technical ability.

COMMENDED (80-84) A convincing performance technically & artistically, with increasing stylistic & communication skills.

HONOURS (85-89) An excellent performance, demonstrating fluent technical and artistic skills with emerging individuality.

OUTSTANDING (90-94) An impressive performance technically and artistically, displaying spontaneity & clear individuality.

EXCEPTIONAL (95+) A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic individuality.

The following Place awards are made at the adjudicator's discretion.
1st Place - 5 or fewer entries
2nd Place - 6 to 8 entries
3rd Place - 9 or more entries.
The adjudicator's decision in all matters relating to the musical result of a class is final.

A participant must achieve a minimum standard of Commended to be eligible for an award. If a winner is unable to attend the presentation, they may collect their award from a member of the Committee at a mutually convenient time and place.

12 SAFETY & SECURITY: The accompanying responsible adult must supervise children/pupils whilst on Festival premises. The use of play equipment belonging to Kent College is forbidden. The Committee does not hold itself responsible for any injuries sustained by any participant or member of the public whilst on Festival premises. The Committee will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to participants' belongings at the Festival.

13 GRADED MUSIC CLASSES: Performers may enter only one Graded class on the same instrument in each section. They should not have taken the exam for a higher grade by the start of the Festival and must play a piece equal to the grade of the class.

14 BACKING TRACKS: Backing tracks are only permitted in Musical Theatre classes. Performers must supply their own equipment and are responsible for setting it up within the performance time limit allowed. An additional fee is payable at point of entry.

15 AWARDS: Trophies must be returned as directed by the Trophy Co-ordinator, by the due date and in an acceptable state (cleaned and polished). Failure to do so will render the trophy holder ineligible to receive any subsequent trophies they may win, and may lead to festival entries being declined without refund.

If a trophy is lost or damaged, a suitable replacement (to be approved by Tunbridge Wells Arts Festival prior to purchase) must be provided, at the Award Winner's expense. Failure to comply will result in disqualification from future festivals.

16 TEACHER ENTRIES: Teachers entering on behalf of their pupils must include contact details for the performer (email address & phone number) at the point of entry in addition to the teacher's own details. Groups of 5 or more performers are excluded from this requirement.

It is the responsibility of the teacher to pass on all information received as the entrant in a timely manner.

17 SUITABILITY OF MATERIAL: Bearing in mind the potential age range of the audience, 'adult material' must not to be used. The Session President may, at their discretion, stop any performance which breaches this rule and disqualify the entry. The Session President's decision shall be final.

Adjudicator

Delmozene Morris-Ley MA

Delmozene studied performance arts for three years at the Birmingham School of Speech & Dramatic Art with two years spent on the teaching course and a final year on the performance course. She has worked and continues to work professionally in theatre, film, TV and radio. Delmozene regularly reviews books for the quarterly publication "Word Matters".

During her varied career Delmozene has worked creatively with young people of all ages, from running drama workshops, teaching performance skills, and directing both improvised and scripted work on 'A' Level and BTEC Performing Arts Courses.

As an experienced Speech and Drama examiner she has travelled and examined extensively in her role. She has adjudicated writing, drama and speech festivals. These have included performances at Dulwich College, Wolverhampton Writers Festival and Coulsden and Purley Festival.

Delmozene is looking forward to adjudicating at the Tunbridge Wells Arts Festival in 2027.

SPEECH

Class	Age	Time	Fee
001 Verse Speaking up to Year 2 One poem to be recited from memory. Choreographed gestures are not permitted in Verse Speaking classes. Occasional spontaneous movements are acceptable.	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
002 Verse Speaking Year 3-4 One poem to be recited from memory. Choreographed gestures are not permitted in Verse Speaking classes. Occasional spontaneous movements are acceptable.	Year 3 to Year 4	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
003 Verse Speaking Year 5-6 One poem to be recited from memory. Choreographed gestures are not permitted in Verse Speaking classes. Occasional spontaneous movements are acceptable.	Year 5 to Year 6	Up to 3 mins	£8.50
004 Senior Verse Speaking Year 7-13 One poem to be recited from memory. Choreographed gestures are not permitted in Verse Speaking classes. Occasional spontaneous movements are acceptable.	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
005 Prose Reading up to Year 2 One passage from any work of fiction to be read, not memorised.	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
006 Prose Reading Year 3-4 One passage from any work of fiction to be read, not memorised.	Year 3 to Year 4	Up to 2 mins	£8.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
007 Prose Reading Year 5-6 One passage from any work of fiction to be read, not memorised.	Year 5 to Year 6	Up to 3 mins	£8.50
008 Senior Prose Reading Year 7-13 One passage from any work of fiction to be read, not memorised.	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
009 Non-Competitive Speech (any age) One poem to be recited from memory OR one passage from any work of fiction to be read, not memorised. Choreographed gestures are not permitted in Verse Speaking classes. Occasional spontaneous movements are acceptable. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark.	Any	Up to 4 mins	£9.00

DRAMA

Class	Age	Time	Fee
010 Dramatic Solo up to Year 2 Monologue from any play excluding Shakespeare. A short introduction should be given (not included in the time limit). Props may be used but no costumes	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
011 Dramatic Solo Year 3-4 Monologue from any play excluding Shakespeare. A short introduction should be given (not included in the time limit). Props may be used but no costumes	Year 3 to Year 4	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
012 Dramatic Solo Year 5 Monologue from any play excluding Shakespeare. A short introduction should be given (not included in the time limit). Props may be used but no costumes.	Year 5 only	Up to 3 mins	£8.50
013 Dramatic Solo Year 6 Monologue from any play excluding Shakespeare. A short introduction should be given (not included in the time limit). Props may be used but no costumes.	Year 6 only	Up to 3 mins	£8.50
014 Junior Dramatic Duo or Trio up to Year 6 Duo or trio from any play excluding Shakespeare. A short introduction should be given (not included in the time limit). Props may be used but no costumes. Group of 2 to 3 people	Year 6 and under	Up to 3 mins	£15.00 per duo/trio
015 Dramatic Solo Year 7 Monologue from any play excluding Shakespeare. A short introduction should be given (not included in the time limit). Props may be used but no costumes.	Year 7 only	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
016 Dramatic Solo Year 8 Monologue from any play excluding Shakespeare. A short introduction should be given (not included in the time limit). Props may be used but no costumes.	Year 8 only	Up to 4 mins	£9.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
017 Dramatic Solo Year 9 Monologue from any play excluding Shakespeare. A short introduction should be given (not included in the time limit). Props may be used but no costumes.	Year 9 only	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
018 Intermediate Dramatic Duo or Trio Year 7-9 Duo or trio from any play excluding Shakespeare. A short introduction should be given (not included in the time limit). Props may be used but no costumes. Group of 2 to 3 people	Year 7 to Year 9	Up to 4 mins	£16.00 per duo/trio
019 Shakespeare Solo Year 7-13 Monologue from any play by Shakespeare. A short introduction should be given (not included in the time limit). Props may be used but no costumes.	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 5 mins	£9.50
020 Senior Drama Year 10-13 Solo, duo or trio from any play excluding Shakespeare. A short introduction should be given (not included in the time limit). Props may be used but no costumes. Solo or Group of 2 to 3 people	Year 10 to Year 13	Up to 5 mins	Solo: £9.50 Duo/Trio: £17.00 per duo/trio
021 Non-Competitive Drama (any age) Solo, duo or trio from any play including Shakespeare. A short introduction should be given (not included in the time limit). Props may be used but no costumes. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark. Solo or Group of 2 to 3 people	Any	Up to 5 mins	Solo: £9.50 Duo/Trio: £17.00 per duo/trio

SPEECH & DRAMA VERSATILITY

Class	Age	Time	Fee
022 Speech & Drama Versatility up to Year 13 A varied programme comprising own choice of ONE of the following: - a poem to be recited from memory without choreographed gestures - an original poem to be recited from memory - a reading of one passage from any work of fiction, to be read not memorised PLUS - a dramatic solo from any play including Shakespeare. Props may be used but no costumes. NOTE: No items may be repeated in any other class.	Year 13 and under	Up to 10 mins	£14.00

POETRY COMPOSITION

Class	Age	Time	Fee
023 Poetry Composition up to Year 13 One original poem of not less than Sonnet length (14 lines), legibly written or typed. To be recited from memory without choreographed gestures. The performer should introduce the poem (not included in the time limit). Poems must be sent to the Chair by 21st February 2027.	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
024 Non-Competitive Poetry Composition (any age) One original poem, legibly written or typed. To be recited from memory without choreographed gestures. The performer should introduce the poem (not included in the time limit). Poems must be sent to the Chair by 21st February 2027.	Any	Up to 4 mins	£9.00

Awards

If you win your class, you may be eligible for an award. Class awards will be announced at the Festival and will be presented at the GEMS Concert & Prize Giving on Sunday 21 March 2027.

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. 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 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 been invited to play at the Korpo Sibelius Festival and has given several recitals on the composer's original Steinway at Ainola. Joseph has also performed at Camerata Hall, Helsinki, Hämeenlinna City Hall, the Sibelius Museum in Turku and the Joensuu Music Festival. To mark the 150th anniversary of Sibelius's birth in 2015, he gave an all-Sibelius recital at St John's Smith Square in London together with a live broadcast on BBC Radio 3's In Tune. 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.

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 and featured on BBC Radio 3's Record Review. 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, Music Festivals including Cheltenham, Buxton and York as well as in Japan and USA.

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, St George's Bristol, Hatchlands in Surrey, Newport Cathedral and the Presteigne Festival.

Joseph was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM) in 2008 and is a visiting teacher at Junior Academy (RAM) in London, Wells Cathedral School and Coordinator of the Wells International Piano Summer School. He is an adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals and has been invited to judge piano prizes at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

GRADED SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
100 Piano Solo Beginners Year 2 & under One or two very easy pieces which should not be beyond Initial Grade standard in complexity. Initial Grade examination music should not be played. Performers may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
101 Piano Solo Beginners Year 3-4 One or two very easy pieces which should not be beyond Initial Grade standard in complexity. Initial Grade examination music should not be played. Performers may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 3 to Year 4	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
102 Piano Solo Beginners Year 5-8 One or two very easy pieces which should not be beyond Initial Grade standard in complexity. Initial Grade examination music should not be played. Performers may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 5 to Year 8	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
103 Piano Solo Initial Grade ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Initial Grade syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 1 by the time of the festival, and may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
104 Piano Solo Grade 1 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 1 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 2 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
105 Piano Solo Grade 2 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 2 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 3 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
106 Piano Solo Grade 3 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 3 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 4 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.50
107 Piano Solo Grade 4 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 4 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 5 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
108 Piano Solo Grade 5 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 5 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 6 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
109 Piano Solo Grades 6-7 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 6 or 7 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 7 or 8 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.50
110 Advanced Piano Performance One or more items from the same work e.g. movements from a sonata or dances from a suite. A minimum standard of approximately Grade 8 is expected. Grade 8 examination music may be performed.	Year 13 and under	Up to 10 mins	£14.00

AGE GROUP SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
111 Piano Solo Year 2 & under One or two pieces at any grade/level.	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
112 Piano Solo Year 3 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 3 only	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
113 Piano Solo Year 4 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 4 only	Up to 3 mins	£8.50
114 Piano Solo Year 5 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 5 only	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
115 Piano Solo Year 6 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 6 only	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
116 Non-Competitive Piano Solo or Duet Year 6 & under One or two pieces at any grade/level. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark. Solo or Group of 2 people	Year 6 and under	Up to 4 mins	Solo: £9.00 Duo: £15.00 per duo
117 Intermediate Piano Solo Year 7-9 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 7 to Year 9	Up to 5 mins	£9.50
118 Senior Piano Solo Year 10-13 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 10 to Year 13	Up to 6 mins	£10.00
119 Non-Competitive Piano Solo or Duet Year 7-13 One or two pieces at any grade/level. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark. Solo or Group of 2 people	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 6 mins	Solo: £10.00 Duo: £17.00 per duo
120 Bach Piano Solo One or more items from any single composition by J.S.Bach.	Year 13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£10.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
121 Non-Competitive Piano Recital (any age) Two to four pieces of contrasting styles and periods at any level/grade. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark.	Any	Up to 15 mins	£20.00

DUETS & TRIOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
122 Piano Duet or Trio One or two pieces for two or three performers seated at one piano. Group of 2 to 3 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 3 mins	£14.00 per duo/trio
123 Novice Piano Duet with Teacher Year 2 & under One or two duets. Performer plays the Primo part and only they are adjudicated. Novice classes are intended for those with limited or no previous experience of festivals who have not yet reached a playing standard of Grade 1. Grade 1 examination duets should not be performed.	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
124 Novice Piano Duet with Teacher Year 3-4 One or two duets. Performer plays the Primo part and only they are adjudicated. Novice classes are intended for those with limited or no previous experience of festivals who have not yet reached a playing standard of Grade 1. Grade 1 examination duets should not be performed.	Year 3 to Year 4	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
125 Novice Piano Duet with Teacher Year 5-6 One or two duets. Performer plays the Primo part and only they are adjudicated. Novice classes are intended for those with limited or no previous experience of festivals who have not yet reached a playing standard of Grade 1. Grade 1 examination duets should not be performed.	Year 5 to Year 6	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
126 Piano Duet with Teacher Grade 1 One or two duets with Primo part of approximately Grade 1 standard. Performer plays the Primo part and only they are adjudicated. Performers should not have passed Grade 2 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
127 Piano Duet with Teacher Grade 2-3 One or two duets with Primo part of approximately Grade 2 or 3 standard. Performer plays the Primo part and only they are adjudicated. Performers should not have passed Grade 4 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.50
128 Piano Duet with Teacher Grade 4-5 One or two duets with Primo part of approximately Grade 4 or 5 standard. Performer plays the Primo part and only they are adjudicated. Performers should not have passed Grade 6 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.50

Awards

If you win your class, you may be eligible for an award. Class awards will be announced at the Festival and will be presented at the GEMS Concert & Prize Giving on Sunday 21 March 2027.

STRINGS (BOWED & PLUCKED) Syllabus

Adjudicator

Fiona McLean-Buechel BA(RSAMD), CertRAM

Fiona is a specialist strings and chamber music adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals, Scottish Representative for Festivals and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. She is a founder member of NYOS and an alumnus of RCS (RSAMD) and St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh. She enjoys an international career as an educator and performer, currently lecturing in Violin at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for the Junior Department, Primary Instrumental Programme and as project lead for the King's Foundation Programme at Dumfries House. She stepped down from her role as Lead Tutor for Strings at Trinity Laban Junior Conservatoire in 2022.

She has a passion for performance and empowering others to get the most out of their music making. She combines a busy career as a performer and educator; writing creative
and collaborative national and international performance projects & delivering Masterclasses and Professional Development sessions for UK and International Students and Teachers.

GRADED SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
200 Strings Solo Beginners Year 4 & under One or two very easy pieces which should not be beyond Initial Grade standard in complexity. Initial Grade examination music should not be played. Performers should not have passed Initial Grade by the time of the festival, and may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 4 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
201 Strings Solo Beginners Year 5-8 One or two very easy pieces which should not be beyond Initial Grade standard in complexity. Initial Grade examination music should not be played. Performers should not have passed Initial Grade by the time of the festival, and may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 5 to Year 8	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
202 Strings Solo Initial Grade ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Initial Grade syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 1 by the time of the festival, and may enter either Beginners or Initial Grade classes but not both.	Year 13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
203 Strings Solo Grade 1 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 1 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 2 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
204 Strings Solo Grades 2-3 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 2 or 3 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 3 or 4 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 Accompanist £8.50
205 Strings Solo Grades 4-5 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 4 or 5 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 5 or 6 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
206 Strings Solo Grades 6-7 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 6 or 7 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 7 or 8 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.50 Accompanist £9.50
207 Advanced Strings Performance One or more items from the same work e.g. movements from a sonata or dances from a suite. A minimum standard of approximately Grade 8 is expected. Grade 8 examination music may be performed.	Year 13 and under	Up to 10 mins	£14.00 Accompanist £14.00

AGE GROUP SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
208 Strings Solo Year 2 & under One or two pieces at any grade/level.	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
209 Strings Solo Year 3-4 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 3 to Year 4	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 Accompanist £8.50
210 Strings Solo Year 5-6 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 5 to Year 6	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
211 Non-Competitive Strings Solo or Duet Year 6 & under One or two pieces at any grade/level. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark. Solo or Group of 2 people	Year 6 and under	Up to 3 mins	Solo: £8.50 Duo: £14.00 per duo Accompanist £8.50
212 Intermediate Strings Solo Year 7-9 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 7 to Year 9	Up to 5 mins	£9.50 Accompanist £9.50
213 Senior Strings Solo Year 10-13 ONE piece at any grade/level performed on a stringed instrument.	Year 10 to Year 13	Up to 6 mins	£10.00 Accompanist £10.00
214 Non-Competitive Strings Solo or Duet Year 7-13 One or two pieces at any grade/level. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark. Solo or Group of 2 people	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 6 mins	Solo: £10.00 Duo: £17.00 per duo Accompanist £10.00
215 Bach Strings Solo One or more items from any single composition by J.S.Bach.	Year 13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£10.00 Accompanist £10.00
216 Non-Competitive Strings Recital (any age) Two to four pieces of contrasting styles and periods at any level/grade. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark.	Any	Up to 15 mins	£20.00 Accompanist £20.00

ENSEMBLES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
217 Strings Duet with Teacher One or two duets. Only the Performer is adjudicated. The teacher may play any string instrument.	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
218 Strings Duet One or two pieces for two performers. Any combination of strings with optional piano accompaniment. Group of 2 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£15.00 per duo Accompanist £10.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
219 Strings Trio or Quartet One or two pieces for three or four performers. Any combination of strings with optional piano accompaniment. Piano Trio music is not suitable for this class; please enter as a Mixed Ensemble. Group of 3 to 4 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£18.00 per group Accompanist £10.00
220 Strings Ensemble for 5-10 players One or two pieces for any combination of strings with optional piano accompaniment and/or conductor. Group of 5 to 10 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£21.00 per group Accompanist £12.00

Awards

If you win your class, you may be eligible for an award. Class awards will be announced at the Festival and will be presented at the GEMS Concert & Prize Giving on Sunday 21 March 2027.

Adjudicator

Rosanna Whitfield DipRCM,ARCM,PGCE

As an experienced adjudicator member of The British and International Federation of Festivals, Rosanna is regularly called upon to adjudicate in the UK and abroad and has forged long-standing links with specialist music schools in Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Her positive, interactive adjudicating style inducing young musicians to participate, year on year.
Rosanna's vast experience as a performer, teacher and presenter, teamed with an innate love of music, underpins her unstoppable drive as a dedicated campaigner for music in education. Her natural ability to both captivate audiences and inspire young musicians to achieve their dreams stems from an unquestionable belief that music can change lives.

As Director of Music at Whitgift School, Rosanna has devised educational projects for all levels of musician from beginner to advanced, and regularly presents interactive concerts and masterclasses to thousands of primary school pupils. A keen conductor and composer, she directed the world première of her work, 'The Gift', at Croydon's Fairfield Halls in November 2012, involving over 300 performers.

Instrumental in developing the Whitgift International Music Competition in 2013, Rosanna continues to promote the outstanding benefits of the many musical projects offered by the school and supported by the Whitgift Foundation.

Rosanna was appointed as Head of Junior Guildhall Conservatoire from January 2020.

GRADED SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
300 Woodwind & Brass Solo Beginners Year 4 & under One or two very easy pieces which should not be beyond Grade 1 standard in complexity. Grade 1 examination music should not be played. Performers should not have passed Grade 1 by the time of the festival, and may enter EITHER Beginners OR Grade 1 classes but not both.	Year 4 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
301 Woodwind & Brass Solo Beginners Year 5-8 One or two very easy pieces which should not be beyond Grade 1 standard in complexity. Grade 1 examination music should not be played. Performers should not have passed Grade 1 by the time of the festival, and may enter EITHER Beginners OR Grade 1 classes but not both.	Year 5 to Year 8	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
302 Woodwind & Brass Solo Grade 1 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 1 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 2 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
303 Woodwind & Brass Solo Grades 2-3 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 2 or 3 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 3 or 4 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 Accompanist £8.50
304 Woodwind & Brass Solo Grades 4-5 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 4 or 5 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 5 or 6 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
305 Woodwind & Brass Solo Grades 6-7 ONE examination piece from a CURRENT Grade 6 or 7 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 7 or 8 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.50 Accompanist £9.50
306 Advanced Woodwind & Brass Performance One or more items from the same work e.g. movements from a sonata or dances from a suite. A minimum standard of approximately Grade 8 is expected. Grade 8 examination music may be performed.	Year 13 and under	Up to 10 mins	£14.00 Accompanist £14.00

AGE GROUP SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
307 Woodwind & Brass Solo Year 2 & under One or two pieces at any grade/level.	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
308 Woodwind & Brass Solo Year 3-4 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 3 to Year 4	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 Accompanist £8.50

Class	Age	Time	Fee
309 Woodwind & Brass Solo Year 5-6 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 5 to Year 6	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
310 Non-Competitive Woodwind & Brass Solo or Duet Year 6 & under One or two pieces at any grade/level. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark. Solo or Group of 2 people	Year 6 and under	Up to 3 mins	Solo: £8.50 Duo: £14.00 per duo Accompanist £8.50
311 Intermediate Woodwind & Brass Solo Year 7-9 ONE piece at any grade/level.	Year 7 to Year 9	Up to 5 mins	£9.50 Accompanist £9.50
312 Senior Woodwind & Brass Solo Year 10-13 ONE piece at any grade/level performed on a woodwind or brass instrument.	Year 10 to Year 13	Up to 6 mins	£10.00 Accompanist £10.00
313 Non-Competitive Woodwind & Brass Solo or Duet Year 7-13 One or two pieces at any grade/level. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark. Solo or Group of 2 people	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 6 mins	Solo: £10.00 Duo: £17.00 per duo Accompanist £10.00
314 Bach Solo One or more items from any single composition by J.S.Bach.	Year 13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£10.00 Accompanist £10.00
315 Non-Competitive Woodwind & Brass Recital (any age) Two to four pieces of contrasting styles and periods at any level/grade. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark.	Any	Up to 15 mins	£20.00 Accompanist £20.00

ENSEMBLES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
316 Woodwind & Brass Duet with Teacher One or two duets. Only the Performer is adjudicated. The teacher may play any woodwind or brass instrument.	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
317 Woodwind & Brass Duet One or two pieces for two performers. Any combination of woodwind and/or brass with optional piano accompaniment. Group of 2 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£15.00 per duo Accompanist £10.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
318 Woodwind & Brass Trio or Quartet One or two pieces for three or four performers. Any combination of woodwind and/or brass with optional piano accompaniment. Group of 3 to 4 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£18.00 per group Accompanist £10.00
319 Woodwind & Brass Ensemble for 5-10 players One or two pieces for any combination of woodwind and/or brass with optional piano accompaniment and/or conductor. Group of 5 to 10 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£21.00 per group Accompanist £12.00
320 Junior Recorder Ensemble for 5-10 players Own choice of one or two pieces for recorders with optional piano accompaniment and/or conductor. Group of 5 to 10 people	Year 8 and under	Up to 5 mins	£21.00 per group Accompanist £12.00

Awards

If you win your class, you may be eligible for an award. Class awards will be announced at the Festival and will be presented at the GEMS Concert & Prize Giving on Sunday 21 March 2027.

RECITALS, VERSATILITY & COMPOSITION Syllabus

Recitals

Class	Age	Time	Fee
500 Junior Recital up to Year 6 Two to four pieces of contrasting styles and periods performed on one instrument. A minimum standard of Grade 3 is expected. NOTE: No item may be repeated in any other class.	Year 6 and under	Up to 8 mins	£12.00 Accompanist £12.00
501 Intermediate Recital Year 7-9 Two to four pieces of contrasting styles and periods performed on one instrument. A minimum standard of Grade 5 is expected. NOTE: No item may be repeated in any other class.	Year 7 to Year 9	Up to 12 mins	£16.00 Accompanist £16.00
502 Senior Recital Year 10-13 Two to four pieces of contrasting styles and periods performed on one instrument. A minimum standard of Grade 7 is expected. NOTE: No item may be repeated in any other class.	Year 10 to Year 13	Up to 15 mins	£20.00 Accompanist £20.00

Versatility

Class	Age	Time	Fee
503 Junior Versatility up to Year 6 Two or more pieces of contrasting styles and periods, each piece to be performed on a different instrument, including voice. NOTE: No item may be repeated in any other class.	Year 6 and under	Up to 8 mins	£12.00 Accompanist £12.00
504 Intermediate Versatility Year 7-9 Two or more pieces of contrasting styles and periods, each piece to be performed on a different instrument, including voice. NOTE: No item may be repeated in any other class.	Year 7 to Year 9	Up to 12 mins	£16.00 Accompanist £16.00
505 Senior Versatility Year 10-13 Two or more pieces of contrasting styles and periods, each piece to be performed on a different instrument, including voice. NOTE: No item may be repeated in any other class.	Year 10 to Year 13	Up to 15 mins	£20.00 Accompanist £20.00

Composition

Class	Age	Time	Fee
506 Composition Year 13 & under ONE composition for up to four instruments/voices, to be performed live. The composer should introduce the piece (not included in the time limit), and may take part as a performer if wished. A written score (notated either in conventional staff notation or in any other accepted form e.g. graphic, tab) must be sent to the Chair by 21st February 2027.	Year 13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£12.00

Awards

If you win your class, you may be eligible for an award. Class awards will be announced at the Festival and will be presented at the GEMS Concert & Prize Giving on Sunday 21 March 2027.

MIXED INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS Syllabus

CHAMBER GROUPS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
600 Mixed Ensemble (up to 4 players) One or two pieces for at least two of the following: Piano, Strings, Wind, Brass, Percussion, Voice. To be performed without conductor. Group of 2 to 4 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£16.00 per group
601 Mixed Ensemble (up to 10 players) One or two pieces for at least two of the following: Piano, Strings, Wind, Brass, Percussion, Voice. To be performed without conductor. Group of 2 to 10 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£23.00 per group
602 Family Ensemble (up to 4 players) One or two pieces for any combination of instruments and/or voices. All performers must be related. To be performed without conductor. Group of 2 to 4 people	Any	Up to 4 mins	£16.00 per group
603 Percussion Ensemble (up to 10 players) One or two pieces for tuned and/or untuned percussion with optional piano accompaniment and/or conductor. Group of 2 to 10 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£23.00 per group Accompanist £12.00

BANDS & ORCHESTRAS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
604 Junior Band or Orchestra Year 8 & under One or two pieces for any combination of instruments. May be performed with conductor and/or piano accompaniment. Group of 10 to 25 people	Year 8 and under	Up to 8 mins	£25.00 per group Accompanist £14.00
605 Senior Band or Orchestra Year 7-13 One or two pieces for any combination of instruments. May be performed with conductor and/or piano accompaniment. Group of 10 to 25 people	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 10 mins	£27.00 per group Accompanist £18.00

Awards

If you win your class, you may be eligible for an award. Class awards will be announced at the Festival and will be presented at the GEMS Concert & Prize Giving on Sunday 21 March 2027.

Adjudicator

Belinda Mikhaïl BMus(Hons),PgDipRCM,ARCM,EMT

Belinda Mikhaïl won the Associated Board and the Queen Mother Scholarships to study piano and singing as a joint first study at the Royal College of Music where she won the Hopkinson Gold Medal for her final recital. She has since travelled extensively performing both as a soloist and as a chamber musician and has appeared as a concerto soloist at the major London Concert Halls.

She has made numerous recordings for Sony BMG and Universal and is a vocal soloist on EMI's Vocalise album as used in trailers for ER, Lost and Grey's Anatomy. She appears as the featured soloist on many film soundtracks and her solo piano playing of the theme from Chariots of Fire was heard at every medal ceremony at the London Olympic Games.

Belinda is in demand as a Vocal Coach for classical, musical theatre, jazz, pop and rock singers and runs an extensive private and online teaching practice in Buckinghamshire. She has trained performers as diverse as Simone Ashley from Bridgerton, Siouxsie Sioux the rock legend and the Oscar-winning actress Juliette Binoche. She is also known in the industry as a Voice Over artist.

Belinda's work has seen her travel extensively, most recently enjoying work in Glasgow, Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Thailand adjudicating at their annual music festivals. She thoroughly enjoys listening to a wide variety of music and meeting a wealth of musicians as she travels in her role as a British and International Federation adjudicator.

GRADED SOLOS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
400 Vocal Solo Grade 1 ONE examination song from a CURRENT Grade 1 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grade 2 by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
401 Vocal Solo Grades 2-3 ONE examination song from a CURRENT Grade 2 or 3 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 3 or 4 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 Accompanist £8.50
402 Vocal Solo Grades 4-5 ONE examination song from a CURRENT Grade 4 or 5 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 5 or 6 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
403 Vocal Solo Grades 6-7 ONE examination song from a CURRENT Grade 6 or 7 syllabus of any recognised board. Performers should not have passed Grades 7 or 8 respectively by the time of the festival.	Year 13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.50 Accompanist £9.50
404 Advanced Vocal Performance One or more items from the same work. A minimum standard of approximately Grade 8 is expected. Grade 8 examination music may be performed.	Year 13 and under	Up to 8 mins	£12.00 Accompanist £12.00

AGE GROUP SOLOS - CLASSICAL & TRADITIONAL

Class	Age	Time	Fee
405 Vocal Solo Year 2 & under One or two songs at any grade/level.	Year 2 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
406 Vocal Solo Year 3-4 ONE classical or traditional song at any grade/level. Songs from shows, films and pop songs should not be performed, but should be entered in the Musical Theatre classes below.	Year 3 to Year 4	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
407 Vocal Solo Year 5-6 ONE classical or traditional song at any grade/level. Songs from shows, films and pop songs should not be performed, but should be entered in the Musical Theatre classes below.	Year 5 to Year 6	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 Accompanist £8.50
408 Non-Competitive Vocal Solo Year 6 & under One or two songs in any style including folk, musical theatre or pop. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark.	Year 6 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 Accompanist £8.50

Class	Age	Time	Fee
409 Intermediate Vocal Solo Year 7-9 ONE classical or traditional song at any grade/level. Songs from shows, films and pop songs should not be performed, but should be entered in the Musical Theatre classes below.	Year 7 to Year 9	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
410 Senior Vocal Solo Year 10-13 ONE classical or traditional song at any grade/level. Songs from shows, films and pop songs should not be performed, but should be entered in the Musical Theatre classes below.	Year 10 to Year 13	Up to 5 mins	£9.50 Accompanist £9.50
411 Non-Competitive Vocal Solo Year 7-13 One or two songs in any style including folk, musical theatre or pop. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark.	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 5 mins	£9.50 Accompanist £9.50
412 Boy Treble Solo Year 9 & under ONE classical or traditional song at any grade/level. Songs from shows, films and pop songs should not be performed, but should be entered in the Musical Theatre classes below.	Year 9 and under	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
413 Junior Folk Song Year 6 & under A traditional folk song - accompanied or unaccompanied	Year 6 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
414 Senior Folk Song Year 7-13 A traditional folk song - accompanied or unaccompanied	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
415 Aria Year 7-13 Aria from any opera, oratorio or operetta. Music chosen must be appropriate to the age and vocal development of the performer.	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 5 mins	£9.50 Accompanist £9.50

AGE GROUP SOLOS - MUSICAL THEATRE

Class	Age	Time	Fee
416 Musical Theatre Year 4 & under ONE song from a musical or film.	Year 4 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 Accompanist £8.00
417 Musical Theatre Year 5 ONE song from a musical or film.	Year 5 only	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 Accompanist £8.50
418 Musical Theatre Year 6 ONE song from a musical or film.	Year 6 only	Up to 3 mins	£8.50 Accompanist £8.50
419 Musical Theatre Year 7 ONE song from a musical or film.	Year 7 only	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
420 Musical Theatre Year 8 ONE song from a musical or film.	Year 8 only	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
421 Musical Theatre Year 9 ONE song from a musical or film.	Year 9 only	Up to 4 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £9.00
422 Senior Musical Theatre Year 10-13 ONE song from a musical or film.	Year 10 to Year 13	Up to 5 mins	£9.50 Accompanist £9.50

RECITALS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
423 Junior Vocal Recital Year 6 & under Two or three songs of contrasting styles and periods. A minimum standard of Grade 3 is expected. NOTE: No items may be repeated in any other class.	Year 6 and under	Up to 6 mins	£10.00 Accompanist £10.00
424 Intermediate Vocal Recital Year 7-9 Two or three songs of contrasting styles and periods. A minimum standard of Grade 5 is expected. NOTE: No items may be repeated in any other class.	Year 7 to Year 9	Up to 8 mins	£12.00 Accompanist £12.00
425 Senior Vocal Recital Year 10-13 Two or three songs of contrasting styles and periods. A minimum standard of Grade 7 is expected. NOTE: No items may be repeated in any other class.	Year 10 to Year 13	Up to 10 mins	£14.00 Accompanist £14.00
426 Non-Competitive Vocal Recital (any age) Two or three songs of contrasting styles and periods. Non-competitive performers will receive an adjudication but no mark.	Any	Up to 6 mins	£10.00 Accompanist £10.00

ENSEMBLES

Class	Age	Time	Fee
427 Junior Vocal Duet Year 6 & under One song in any style. Each voice should have its own independent part. Group of 2 people	Year 6 and under	Up to 3 mins	£14.00 per duo Accompanist £10.00
428 Senior Vocal Duet Year 7-13 One song in any style. Each voice should have its own independent part. Group of 2 people	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 5 mins	£16.00 per duo Accompanist £12.00
429 Vocal Duet, Trio or Quartet Year 13 & under One song in any style. Each voice should have its own independent part. Note: Duets should enter Junior Duet or Senior Duet classes if both performers are within the age range for those classes. Group of 2 to 4 people	Year 13 and under	Up to 5 mins	£18.00 per group Accompanist £12.00

CHOIRS

Class	Age	Time	Fee
430 Infant Choir Year 2 & under A minimum of 10 singers. Two contrasting pieces, with or without accompaniment. Please note: Entries will be limited to a maximum of four choirs per class with a total number of no more than 100 singers per class. Group of a minimum of 10 people	Year 2 and under	Up to 6 mins	£23.00 per group Accompanist £12.00
431 Children's Choir Year 6 & under A minimum of 10 singers. Two contrasting pieces, with or without accompaniment. Please note: Entries will be limited to a maximum of four choirs per class with a total number of no more than 100 singers per class. Group of a minimum of 10 people	Year 6 and under	Up to 6 mins	£23.00 per group Accompanist £12.00
432 Junior Choir Year 8 & under A minimum of 10 singers. Two contrasting pieces, with or without accompaniment. Please note: Entries will be limited to a maximum of four choirs per class with a total number of no more than 100 singers per class. Group of a minimum of 10 people	Year 8 and under	Up to 6 mins	£23.00 per group Accompanist £12.00
433 Intermediate Choir Year 7-9 A minimum of 10 singers. Two contrasting pieces, with or without accompaniment. Please note: Entries will be limited to a maximum of four choirs per class with a total number of no more than 100 singers per class. Group of a minimum of 10 people	Year 7 to Year 9	Up to 8 mins	£25.00 per group Accompanist £14.00
434 Senior Choir Year 7-13 A minimum of 10 singers. Two contrasting pieces, with or without accompaniment. Please note: Entries will be limited to a maximum of four choirs per class with a total number of no more than 100 singers per class. Group of a minimum of 10 people	Year 7 to Year 13	Up to 8 mins	£25.00 per group Accompanist £14.00
435 Adult Choir A minimum of 10 singers. Two contrasting pieces, with or without accompaniment. Please note: Entries will be limited to a maximum of four choirs per class with a total number of no more than 100 singers per class. Group of a minimum of 10 people	19 and older	Up to 8 mins	£25.00 per group Accompanist £14.00

Awards

If you win your class, you may be eligible for an award. Class awards will be announced at the Festival and will be presented at the GEMS Concert & Prize Giving on Sunday 21 March 2027.

Policies

Child Performance Licensing Policy

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ARTS FESTIVAL

CHILD PERFORMANCE LICENSING POLICY

This Policy was last updated on 9th September 2026.

Chair: Celia Barstow
Vice Chairman: Debbie Mumford
Hon. Secretary: Fiona Ross
Hon. Treasurer (Acting): Fiona Ross
Compliance Officer: Celia Barstow

To comply with the Children's Performances and Activities (England) Regulations 2014 and Notification of Performers covered by the Body of Person's Approval requirement, the following information will be provided by the Festival to Kent County Council for each performer:

o Full Name
o Date of Birth
o Postcode

The entry process has been designed to capture all the information we require to comply with Child Performance legislation, for parents and teachers entering individuals and small groups. Where this information is not provided at point of entry (as in the case of larger groups such as school choirs), it is the responsibility of the Entrant to provide the required information directly to Kent County Council within their stated timescales.

Data Protection Policy

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ARTS FESTIVAL

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)
PRIVACY NOTICE

This Policy was last updated on 9th September 2026

Chair: Celia Barstow
Vice Chairman: Debbie Mumford
Hon. Secretary: Fiona Ross
Hon. Treasurer (Acting): Fiona Ross
Safeguarding Officer: Celia Barstow

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT: In order to operate, Tunbridge Wells Arts Festival (the Festival) needs to gather, store and use certain types of information about individuals.
These individuals can include:
o Staff - Committee members, other voluntary staff, professional musicians engaged as adjudicators and accompanists, and
o Supporters - 'Friends' of the Festival, performers, parents of child performers, music teachers, sponsors, advertisers, and other people the Festival has a relationship with or regularly needs to contact.

This Privacy Notice explains how data is collected, stored and used in order to meet the Festival's data protection standards and comply the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which came into effect on 25 May 2018.

The Notice protects the rights of our staff and supporters, complies with Data Protection law and protects the Festival from the risks of a data breach.

Applicability of Privacy Notice

The Notice applies to everyone handling data on behalf of the Festival, for example Committee Members and other voluntary staff. It applies to all data held by the Festival relating to individuals, including names, email addresses, postal addresses, phone numbers and any other personal information held (for example: dates of birth of child performers, and payments for class fees, Friends subscriptions, etc.)

Data Controller

The Data Controller for the Festival is Celia Barstow, Chair. The Data Controller, together with the committee, is responsible for why data is collected and how it will be used. Any questions relating to the collection or use of data should be directed to the Data Controller.

DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

1. We fairly and lawfully process personal data

The Festival will only collect data where lawful and where it is necessary for the legitimate purposes of the organisation. The Festival's valid lawful bases for processing personal data are 'Consent' and 'Legal obligation', as set out in Article 6 of the GDPR.

o The name and contact details of committee members, other voluntary staff, professional musicians engaged as adjudicators and accompanists will be collected when they take up a position and will be used to contact them regarding administration related to their role, and also regarding festival activities.

o Further information, including personal financial information and criminal records information may also be collected in specific circumstances where lawful and necessary (in order to carry out a DBS check).

o An individual's name and contact details will be collected when they submit an entry for a festival. This will be used to contact them about their entry and to allow them entry to the festival.

o An individual's name, contact details and other details may be collected at any time, with their consent, in order for Tunbridge Wells Arts Festival to communicate with them about festivals and related activities, and/or for Direct Marketing. See 'Direct Marketing' below.

2. We only collect and use personal data for specified and lawful purposes.

When collecting data, the Festival will always explain to the subject why the data is required and what it will be used for.

We will never use personal data for any purpose other than that stated or that can be considered reasonably to be related to it. For example, except for providing the local authority (Kent County Council) with details lawfully required by virtue of the Child Performance Licensing Regulations, we will never pass on personal data to third parties without the explicit consent of the subject.

3. We ensure any data collected is relevant and not excessive

The Festival will not collect or store more data that the minimum information required for its intended purpose.

4. We ensure data is accurate and up-to-date

The Festival will ask staff and supporters to check and update their data on an annual basis. Any individual will be able to update their data at any time by contacting the Data Controller.

5. We ensure data is not kept longer than necessary
Save for any legal requirement placed upon it, the Festival will keep data on individuals for no longer than 12 months after our involvement with them has ceased.

6. We process data in accordance with individuals' rights
The following requests can be made in writing to the Data Controller. Staff and supporters can:
o request to see any data stored about them. Any such request will be actioned within 14 days of the request being made.
o request that any inaccurate data held on them is updated. Any such request will be actioned within 14 days of the request being made.
o request the cessation of receiving any marketing communications. Any such request will be actioned within 14 days of the request being made.
o object to: any storage or use of their data that might cause them substantial distress or damage, and any automated decisions made based on their data. Any such objection will be considered by the committee, and a decision communicated within 30 days of the request being made.

7. We keep personal data secure.
The Festival will ensure that data held by us is kept secure.
o Electronically-held data will be held within a password-protected and secure environment.
o Passwords for electronic data files will be re-set each time an individual with data access leaves their role/position.
o Physically-held data will be stored in a locked receptacle.
o Keys for locks securing physical data files should be collected by the Data Controller from any individual with access if they leave their role/ position. The codes on combination locks should be changed each time an individual with data access leaves their role/position.
o Access to data will only be given to relevant staff and supporters where it is clearly necessary for the running of the organisation. The Data Controller will decide in what situations this is applicable and will keep a master list of who has access to data.

CONTACT BETWEEN STAFF MEMBERS
We only share staff members' data with other staff members with the subject's prior consent. As an organisation comprising volunteers, the Festival encourages communication between volunteer staff.
To facilitate this, volunteer staff can request the personal contact data of other staff in writing via the Data Controller. These details will be given, as long as they are for the purposes of contacting the subject (e.g. an email address or phone number) and the subject consents to their data being shared with other staff in this way.

DIRECT MARKETING
The Festival will regularly collect data from consenting supporters for marketing purposes. This includes contacting them to promote festivals, related concerts, updating them about news, fundraising and other festival activities.
Whenever data is collected for this purpose, we will provide:
o A clear and specific explanation of what the data will be used for.
o A method for users to show their active consent to receive these communications.
o Data collected will only ever be used in the way described and consented to.

POLICY REVIEW
The Festival Committee will review this Policy on a regular basis, and at least once a year, improving and enhancing it as necessary.

A copy of this Policy will be accessible to all participants throughout the Festival.

Safeguarding Policy

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ARTS FESTIVAL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This Policy was last updated on 9th September 2026

Chair: Celia Barstow
Vice Chairman: Debbie Mumford
Hon. Secretary: Fiona Ross
Hon. Treasurer (Acting): Fiona Ross
Safeguarding Officer: Celia Barstow

Venue for the 2027 Festival: Kent College Pembury.
Dates: 6th & 7th March 2027
Gems Concert and Prize Giving: 21st March 2027, Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells. 3.00pm

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT: The safety of children and members of other vulnerable groups is paramount and all, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately and all the charity's trustees and volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns.

1. Purpose and Function of the Festival
The object of the Festival is to advance the education of the public in the arts of Music and Speech & Drama. These aims are achieved by providing a platform for performance supported by feedback from professional adjudicators.

2. The Festival Environment
The Festival is run by a voluntary committee, and during the Festival itself by further voluntary helpers. The Festival will take place in five rooms at Kent College, Pembury in 2027. Participants may need to move around the site from room to room. Kent College Pembury plays no part in the running of the Festival.

The Festival aims to provide a safe environment for all who participate, and to inform parents, guardians, carers and teachers of this Policy. The Festival will work in partnership with them to ensure, so far as is reasonably possible, that the Policy is carried out and a safe environment is provided.

We do this by ensuring that parents, guardians, carers and teachers have their attention drawn to a copy of this Policy on the TWAF website at the point of entry and again at the time when they are making arrangements to attend the Festival.

At Kent College Pembury, school personnel, children attending that school and members of the general public will have access to the venue, and all participants, parents, guardians, carers and teachers should be aware of this and take appropriate steps to safeguard children under the age of 18 years and vulnerable adults from any potential problems.

3. Applicability of Policy
This policy relates to children under the age of 18 years and members of vulnerable groups of any age, hereafter referred to as 'applicable entrants'. Any applicable entrants to whom this policy relates, who require additional support for their needs, should be identified to the Festival Committee

by parents, guardians, carers or teachers prior to their arrival at the Festival. and the GEMS Concert and Prize Giving. This should be done by contacting the named Safeguarding Officer. The Festival actively seeks, wherever possible, to meet additional needs, but must know beforehand in order to prepare support, or let you know we are unable to help.

4. Festival Personnel

All Festival helpers are volunteers and most of the existing helpers have been helping for many years and are well known to the Festival Committee. New recruits tend to be parents of entrants and are usually well known to the Festival Committee already or are recommended by one of the members of the committee. All Helpers must complete an Application Form which includes a self-certification regarding convictions, cautions, reprimands or final warnings relating to working with vulnerable groups, including children.

All helpers are provided with a description of the job to be undertaken by them. All jobs are reviewed annually to ascertain if it is necessary to ask the job holder to obtain an Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

A record of all helpers is held on a central database either by the Helpers Co-ordinator or by a member of the Festival Committee and the names are reviewed at least once a year.

All helpers and Committee members wear lanyards identifying their role in the Organisation. In case of a problem, anyone wearing a lanyard can be approached and will be able to direct you to someone who will know how to help.

The Chairman of the Festival, or in their absence the Vice Chairman or Secretary, or someone nominated by the Chairman to stand in their stead, is the Festival Supervisor and is available at all times during the Festival to answer queries and deal with any problems that arise. Any problems should be immediately notified to them, whereupon appropriate action will be taken.

The Festival Supervisor will keep a central register of any problems notified, the date and details of the problem and the action taken. The Festival treats all such matters with the utmost concern. The Adjudicators' Dining Room is available during the Festival for private discussion if required.

The contents of this Policy will be drawn to the attention of all helpers at the Festival each year by pointing out its availability on the TWAF website.

5. Attendance at the Festival

It is the Policy of the Festival to ensure that all parents, guardians, teachers and carers of applicable entrants are notified that a copy of this Policy is available to read on the TWAF website in time to make arrangements to attend the Festival. Individual entrants are notified on the Entry Form, while entrants who have been entered by their teacher are notified by them, as in that event it is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that all parents, guardians and carers are notified of the Policy.

At all times while on any premises being used by the Festival, applicable entrants should be accompanied by at least one responsible adult. It is a condition of entry that all applicable entrants should be fit and well to participate in their classes. By submitting an online Entry Form, parents, guardians, teachers and carers commit to this requirement.

Under no circumstances will the Festival act "in loco parentis." It is the responsibility of every parent, guardian or carer who is not personally attending with their child to satisfy themselves that their child is accompanied to the Festival and adequately supervised by a responsible adult acting on their behalf.

In particular, please note, it is the responsibility of parents/guardians/carers to ensure children do not play on the swings at any time during the festival.

6. Performance Areas and Practice Rooms

There are no changing facilities at the venue. Practice rooms are available in the Music Block but they are not supervised by anyone on behalf of the Festival and it is the responsibility of a teacher in respect of their entrants and of the adult responsible for any applicable entrants to ensure safe use of these facilities.

A Session President and/or Adjudicators Clerk at all times will supervise each performance venue.

Entrances to the Festival performance venues are also manned at all times and the Festival Supervisor or someone on his or her behalf will check at regular intervals that helpers are in place.

7. GEMS Concert and Prize Giving

Registered Chaperones will be provided for appropriate children under 17 years of age. Otherwise it will be the responsibility of a teacher in respect of their entrants and of the adult responsible for applicable entrants to ensure the safe use of these facilities.

The GEMS Co-ordinator or their nominated deputy will at all times supervise the GEMS Concert.

8. Photographs, Visual Recording and Press Photography

The use of recording equipment, cameras or video cameras of any kind during the course of any Class is strictly forbidden. The Press, or an official photographer, may be in attendance at the Festival. Their photographs may be published in local papers or on the Festival website. If parents do NOT wish their children to be photographed, they must indicate accordingly upon making their entry. Where entries are input by a teacher, it is the teacher's responsibility to obtain consent or otherwise from the parents. The Festival does not take any responsibility for verifying entry information input by teachers.

School Groups: if individual members of a school group are named at point of entry, and therefore parental permission will have been sought, they are covered by the rule above. If members of school groups have not been individually named at point of entry, they will not be photographed by the Press or by any official Festival photographer for the purpose of publishing in local press or on the Festival website. If a school does not wish photographs to be taken of individual pupils representing the school, they must inform the Safeguarding Officer in writing prior to the Festival.

The GEMS concert may be recorded in part or in its entirety. Permission to film will be deemed to be covered by the permission granted or otherwise at the point of entry.

9. The Legislation and Guidance that supports this Policy

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974; The Children Act 1989; The Police Act 1997; The Data Protection Act 1998; The Human Rights Act 1998; The Protection of Children Act 1999; The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000; The Children Act 2004; The Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

10. Policy Review

The Festival Committee will review this Policy on a regular basis, and at least once a year, improving and enhancing it as necessary. In doing so they will look to The British & International Federation of Festivals for support and that body in turn will look to other agencies for good practice, in particular the NSPCC and Arts Council of England policy guidelines.

A copy of this Policy will be accessible to all participants throughout the Festival.