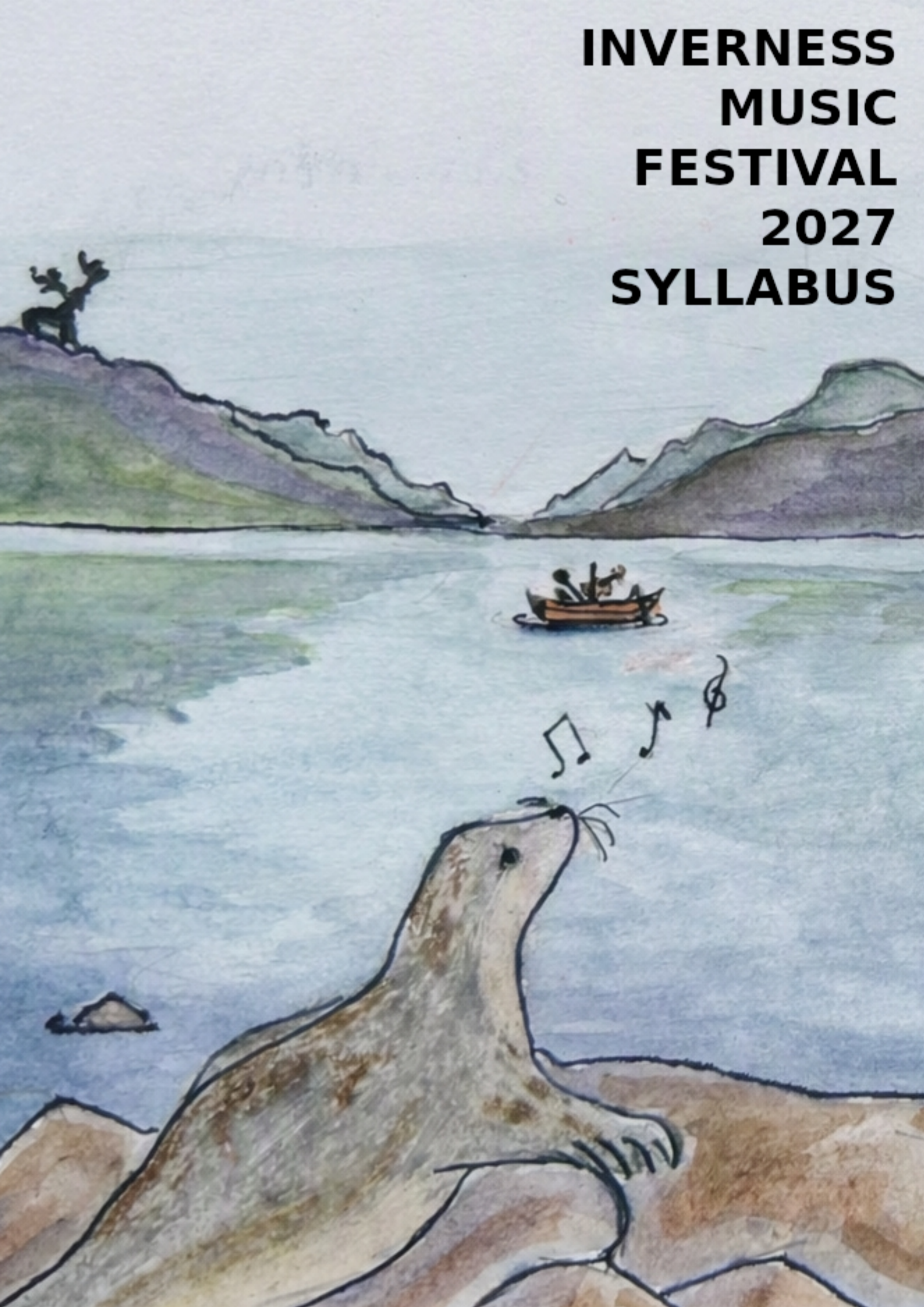
INVERNESS MUSIC FESTIVAL 2027 SYLLABUS



Festival 2027 Syllabus

Welcome to the Inverness Music Festival 2027!

Inverness Music Festival takes place between 25th February and 7th March 2027, at Inverness Methodist Church.
Our motto is 'Performance for Everyone'. We want to encourage people of all ages and all stages to take part in amateur performance. Whatever it is that you would like to do- sing, play, act, debate- we would like to give you the chance to take to the stage. Solo performances and groups of all kinds are equally welcome.
The festival is organised into a series of 'classes'. Most of our classes, by tradition, run as fun and friendly 'competitions'. An adjudicator will watch each performance and make constructive comments. If you wish to compete, a mark will be awarded. However, you do not need to receive a mark, or even comments if you prefer not to. Everyone will be delighted to see your performance if you just want to come along and take part.

The first step to taking part is to browse our syllabus. Classes are grouped into instruments, (Classical, contemporary and traditional), Vocal, Speech and Drama and Creative, including Art.
There are separate classes for beginners, and different stages of skill. 'Open' classes are for confident and/ or experienced musicians and performers. Most of our classes are live, but if you find you cannot attend, it is possible to send in a recording for feedback.
If you are not sure which class is right for you, just ask for advice- we ae very happy to help invernessmusicfestival@gmail.com

Once you have chosen a class, you need to make your entry as soon as you can. We will give you your exact time to attend nearer the time.

Provisional dates are as follows: Woodwind, Brass, Piano, Strings and some vocal classes will run between 25th and 28th February, Speech and Vocal classes will run on 26th February, 5th March, and may also be held on the two Saturdays, depending on demand. Traditional classes will run on 5th and 6th March. Our 'Premier Competition' will take place on Sunday 7th March.
If you have a specific restriction on dates or times when you can take part, then please email for advice, or note it down on your entry when you are asked 'Is there are any additional support needed to facilitate this performance?'. We cannot guarantee to accommodate all requests, but will work with you to facilitate the opportunity to perform as best we are able.

Classical and Contemporary Music

In the classical and contemporary music section you will find classes for Woodwind, Brass, Strings, Piano and Ensembles.
Music from a wide range of genres can be played here.

000 Brass Elementary (Grade 1-2)
Award: Fraser Cup - Highest mark from classes 00,01,02
Entrants perform one piece - own selection from current or previous ABRSM or Trinity Syllabus.

This is a live competitive class.
If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.

Fee £7.50

001 Brass Intermediate Grade 3-4.
Award: Fraser Cup - Highest mark from classes 00,01,02
Entrants perform one piece - own Choice Selection from current or previous ABRSM or Trinity Syllabus.

This is a competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.

Fee £8.50

002 Brass Advanced (Grade 5-6)
Award: Fraser Cup - Highest mark from classes 00,01,02
Entrants perform one piece - own Choice Selection from current or previous ABRSM or Trinity Syllabus

This is a competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.
Fee £10.00

003 Open Recital (Brass)
Award: Valerie Fraser Cup
This is an open recital class.
Players should perform two contrasting pieces. At least one piece must be a consistent standard with Grade 7 or above.

The winner of the class will be invited to perform in the Curtis Craig competition.

This is a competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.

Fee £14.00

004 Primary Recorder or Whistle Solo
Play one piece twice through or two pieces once through.
You can pick any type of tune, including traditional.

Do you prefer to play with friend(s) as a duo or trio? Enter 'Chamber Music. Primary'.
This is a competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.
Fee £4.50
Age 13 and younger

005 Woodwind Elementary (Grade 1-2).
Award: Christina Cameron Quaich 2 - Highest mark from classes 5-7
Entrants perform one piece -Own Choice selection from current or previous ABRSM or Trinity Syllabus.

Any woodwind instrument can be played, including recorder.

This is a competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.
Fee £7.50

006 Woodwind Intermediate (Grade 3-4)
Award: Christina Cameron Quaich 2- Highest Mark from Classes 5-7
Entrants perform one piece -Own Choice Selection from current or previous ABRSM or Trinity Syllabus.
This is a competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.
Fee £8.50

007 Woodwind Advanced (Grade 5-6)
Award: Christina Cameron Quaich (2) Highest mark Classes 5,6,7
Entrants perform one piece -Own Choice Selection from current or previous ABRSM or Trinity Syllabus.
This is a competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.
Fee £10.00

008 Woodwind Open Recital
Award: The Bank of Scotland Cup
A performance of 2 pieces of own choice. The standard of at least one piece must be consistent with Grade 7 or above.
The winner of the class will be eligible to enter the Curtis Craig Competition.
This is a competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.
Fee £14.00

009 Beginner Strings
Award: Christina Cameron Shield
This class is suitable for early stage players of any stringed instrument.
You should be able to play a short tune once or twice through.
We can provide an accompanist if you would like, or you can play unaccompanied.
As a guide, you have probably been playing for up to a year. A piece from ' Fiddle Time Joggers' or similar would be suitable, or the first half of Suzuki Book 1.
If you are beyond the beginner/ early stage, please be respectful and move on to the elementary classes.
Players learning Scottish fiddle who wish to play a traditional tune should look at the Scottish traditional classes.

This is a friendly competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.
Fee £5.00

010 Upper Strings Elementary - (Grade 1-2)
Award: Jean Slater Shield - Highest mark classes 10,11,12
A performance of a single piece of own choice from the current (or previous) ABRSM or Trinity or exam syllabus.
The official accompanist can be booked.
This class is suitable for Upper strings- Violin. Viola.
This is a competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.
Fee £7.50

011 Lower Strings Elementary Grade Class (Grade 1-2)
A performance of a single piece of own choice from the current (or previous) ABRSM or Trinity or exam syllabus.
The official accompanist can be booked.
This class is suitable for Lower strings- Cello, Double Bass
This is a friendly competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.
Fee £7.50

012 Strings Elementary Free Choice Class
A performance of a single piece of own choice.
This class is suitable either for instruments such as harp, mandolin, guitar which are not represented elsewhere, or players of stringed instruments who do not wish to select from the grade syllabus.
You will have progressed beyond the beginner stage, and be building confidence.
This is a friendly competitive class, but be aware we look forward to hearing a variety of instruments and styles.
You may request the official accompanist if you wish or play unaccompanied.
If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.

Fee £7.00

013 Upper Strings Intermediate (Grade 3-4)
A performance of a single piece of own choice from the current (or previous) ABRSM or Trinity exam syllabus.
The official accompanist can be booked.
This class is suitable for Upper Strings - Violin. Viola
This is a competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the additional questions on your entry.
There is also an option for a recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the event.
Fee £8.50

014 Lower Strings Intermediate (Grade 3-4)
A performance of a single piece of own choice from the current (or previous) ABRSM or Trinity exam syllabus.
The official accompanist may be booked.
This class is suitable for Lower Strings- Cello, Double Bass.
This is a competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the additional questions on your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.
Fee £8.50

015 Strings Intermediate Free Choice Class
Award: Frank Gale Memorial Trophy - Best of Intermediate Strings
A performance of a single piece of own choice.
This class is suitable either for instruments such as harp, mandolin, guitar which are not represented elsewhere, or for players of stringed instruments who do not wish to select from a graded exam syllabus.
Players of cello or double bass may also enter this class (updated 22/12/25).
You will be a confident learner, playing at an improvers level, but not yet considering yourself advanced. Typically you may have been playing for 2-3 years.
You may request the official accompanist, or play unaccompanied.
If you would prefer your entry to be considered non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you make your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the live event.
Fee £8.50

016 Upper Strings Advanced (Grade 5-6)
Award: Sieczkarek Cup _ Best of Upper Strings Advanced.
A performance of a single piece of own choice from the current or previous ABRSM or Trinity exam syllabus.
The official accompanist may be booked.
This class is suitable for upper strings- Violin, Viola
This is a competitive class. If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the additional questions with your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non -competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the event.
Fee £9.50

017 Lower Strings Advanced (Grade 5-6)
A performance of a single piece of own choice from the current (or previous) ABRSM or Trinity exam syllabus.
The official accompanist can be booked.
This class is suitable for Lower Strings - Cello, Double Bass
This is a competitive class If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the additional questions in your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitive) if an entrant is unable to attend the event.
Fee £9.00

018 Strings Free Choice Advanced Class
A solo performance of a short recital of two pieces.
This class is suitable either for instruments such as harp, mandolin, guitar which are not represented elsewhere, or players of stringed instruments who do not wish to select from the grade syllabus.
We look forward to hearing a variety of instruments and styles. It is permissible to play different instruments in the two pieces if wished.
You will be a confident and experienced, playing at an advanced level.
If you would prefer your entry to be considered as non-competitive, you can specify this on the 'additional questions' when you submit your entry.
There is also an option for recorded performance (non-competitve) if an entrant in unable to attend the event.
Fee £10.50

019 Open Strings Recital Class
Award: Open Strings Cup
Open to String Players of a standard consistent with Grade 7 or above (see notes below).
Entrants in this class may not enter Grade classes for grades 1-6).
The programme of music should be introduced by the entrant and include 2-3 pieces with a maximum performance length of 12 minutes. Credit will be given for contrast.
Performers of all stringed instruments including pedal harp, lever harp and Classical guitar may enter.
Please specify instrument on the application form.
Winners of this class are eligible to enter the Curtis Craig competition.
Fee £15.50
Up to 12 mins

020 Early Stage Piano (Online)
For players who have not yet taken any exams
1 own choice selection.
Note this is an online class and entry is by video only. Entrants will be able to see other entrants videos when the class is released. (Early piano players wanting to play live could look at other classes eg duet with experienced player or traditional solo beginners - please ask if advice needed)
Fee £5.50

023 Piano Grade 1
Own choice selection from Current ABRSM or Trinity Syllabus Grade 1.
One piece.
Solo piano.
You may choose whether you wish to enter online (by submitting a video) or live at the venue. There will be separate placings for the live and online submissions.
Performers who do not wish to play a piece from the exam syllabus are encouraged to look at the themed piano section.
Fee £6.50

024 Piano Grade 2
Award: Little Grade 2 Piano Trophy
One piece- Own choice selection from current or previous ABRSM or Trinity Syllabus Grade 2.
You may choose to enter live or online (by video).
There will be separate placings for live and online entries.
Fee £7.50

025 Piano Grade 3
One piece- own choice selection from current or previous ABRSM or Trinity Grade 3 syllabus.
This is a live class. If entrants are unable to attend on the day there is always the option to submit a video for non-competitive comments
Fee £7.50

026 Piano Grade 4
Award: Robertson Cup
One piece own selection from current or previous ABRSM or Trinity syllabus.
This is a live class. If any entrants are unable to attend on the day there is always the option to submit a video for non-competitive comments.
Fee £8.50

027 Piano Grade 5
Award: Small Piano Shield
One piece- own choice selection from current or previous ABRSM or Trinity syllabus.
This is a live class.
There is always the option to submit a video for non-competitive comments if the entrant is unable to attend on the day.
Fee £9.50

028 Piano Grade 6
Award: Grade 6 Piano Salver
One piece- Own choice selection from current or previous ABRSM or Trinity exam syllabus.
This is a live class.
If entrants are unable to attend on the day there is the option to submit a video online for non-competitive comments
Fee £10.50

029 Piano Grade 7
Award: Alastair Gordon Memorial Cup
Two contrasting pieces selected from the current or previous ABRSM or Trinity syllabus. At least one of the two pieces must be Grade 7.
If a distinction is awarded, the winner may be invited to participate in the Curtis Craig competition.
If only one piece is played, the entry will be non-competitive. If entrants are not able to attend on the day they may submit a video for non-competitive comments.
Fee £14.00

030 Piano - Grade 8 Performance Practice and Feedback Class
Award: Grade 8 piano trophy
This class is intended for those who have started Grade 8 or are practising for exams, but have not yet taken it.
Performers should select one piece from the current ABRSM or Trinity syllabus.
The adjudicator will give constructive comments and a guidance grading band.
There is a cup to mark the occasion given to the most enjoyable performance.
It is permissible to enter both classes 28 and 29
Live Only
Fee £9.50

031 Inverness Music Festival Open Piano Recital Competition
Award: The Pianoforte Quaich
This class is intended for pianoforte players continuing their studies beyond Grade 8 (or equivalent standard).
The performance programme should be 12-15 minutes. Participants should pay attention to the balance and appeal of the programme.
The winner will receive a prize and be awarded the Open piano cup.
The class is live. We accept recorded piano recitals for non-competitive comments.
Fee £16.50
Up to 15 mins

032 Beginner/ Experienced Player Piano Duet
A performance of a duet by a beginner and an experienced player (eg teacher).
'Beginners' may be up to approximately Grade 1 level.
One piece
Live class only.
Non competitive entries are also welcome-
Felling anxious? You may also like to consider Classes 113 and 114 - these classes are non-competitive and for all standards
Fee £8.00 per duo
Group of 2 people

033 Elementary Piano Duet Grade 1-2
Performance of single piece of an appropriate standard.
Either:
Both players must be of elementary standard
or
1 player will be of elementary standard and they will be accompanied by their teacher or more advanced player. In this case, only the elementary player will receive adjudication.

Live Only
Fee £9.00 per duo
Group of 2 people

034 Intermediate Piano Duet Grade 3-5
A performance of a single piece of appropriate standard.
Either both players must be of intermediate standard or
- one intermediate standard player may be accompanied by a teacher or other more advanced player. In this case, only the intermediate standard player will receive adjudication
Live only
Fee £9.00 per duo
Group of 2 people

035 Advanced Piano Duet/ (Grade 6 or above)
Award: The Summerfield Trophy
A performance of up to 8 minutes consisting of either one or two pieces. At least part of the recital must be at Grade 6 or equivalent standard.
Pianists of appropriate standard may perform with their teacher if required (adjudication will be for the amateur pianist only)
This is a live competition.
Advanced piano duet recordings may be submitted for feedback if required.
Fee £11.00 per duo/trio
Group of 2 to 3 people

036 Elementary Themed Piano
The themed piano classes encourage a more relaxed approach to music selection with a theme given rather than specified by grade.
The 2027 theme is 'Spring'. The choice is yours as to how you interpret this theme..
You will likely have been playing for 0- 2 years and are developing confidence.
You will play one piece, which you will introduce and say why you have chosen it.
This is a live class.
Fee £7.00

037 Intermediate Themed Piano
Award: Themed piano trophy
You will be taking part in our themed piano class. The theme for 2026 is 'Spring'. It is up to you to decide on a piece which interprets this theme.
You should introduce your piece and say why you chose it.
You will probably have been playing for at least a couple of years and are gaining confidence.
Single Piece. Live class
Fee £8.00

038 Advanced Themed Piano
Award: Themed piano trophy - highest mark in 34,35,36
This is our Advanced Festival Themed piano class. You will not be constrained by grade standard but should be an advanced player. Your programme is on the theme of 'Spring'. You should include at least two different pieces or themes. You should introduce your programme.
Winners scoring a distinction may be elgible for the Curtis Craig Competition.
Live Class
Fee £12.50

039 Piano free choice with Improvisation
Award: Inverness Music Festival Trophy
This class is for piano players who enjoy the freedom to improvise.
It may be that you are learning jazz piano, which requires an element of improvisation within a set piece. Or maybe you just enjoy making up your performance as you go!
This is a performance class for all standards. We are looking forward to an enjoyable concert. There will be guide marks, and a commemorative cup for the most enjoyable performance, in the opinion of the adjudicator.
Live only
Fee £8.50

040 Primary Small Ensemble
Award: Eastgate Cup (only awarded for ensembles including strings)
All players must be primary age. However there may be an adult accompanist or adult in a supporting role.
The class is suitable for a small group playing in a non-traditional genre - classical, or contemporary.
We would suggest 2-8 performers, playing either one or two pieces.
This class is live only
Note there are a number of ensemble classes suitable for primary age - please ask for advice if unsure.
Fee £11.00 per group
Group of 2 to 8 people

041 Secondary Small Ensemble
A performance of classical or contemporary music by a small group.
The group may include primary school children. An adult accompanist is permitted.
Suggested group size is 2-6.
There are trophies for the highest scoring performance across the primary and secondary class for different instrument combinations.
Fee £11.00 per group
Group of 2 to 8 people

042 Chamber Music - Adult
Suitable for small groups of adults (2-8) playing different parts. There may be school age players included.
We welcome both competitive and non-competitive performances (ie competitive receive a grade and non-competitive do not) If the group do not wish comments they can specify. This is a great opportunity to give yourselves a goal and get your group performing to family and friends.
Fee £13.00 per group
Group of 2 to 8 people

043 Groups/ Bands/ Small Orchestras - Elementary
Award: Fraser Trophy for Elementary Music Groups
Our class for groups either playing different instruments, or different parts.
Note our performance space is small (front of the church) so we can comfortably accommodate around 12 players. Depending on instrument size, and need for seating, there may be room for a small increase. Please discuss before entering if unsure.
As a guide the approximate grade standard for the majority of performers should be less than grade 3.
Live Only. 1 or 2 pieces.
Fee £14.50 per group
Group of 7 to 16 people

044 Groups/ Bands/ Small Orchestras - Intermediate
A performance of 1-2 pieces by a group of performers playing either different instruments, or different parts.
Note our performance space is small - the front of a church. We can comfortably accommodate 12 performers. Depending on size of instrument and seating requirements, there is some flexibility. Please discuss before entering if unsure.
Live entries only.
The majority of performers should be at intermediate level, ie approx equivalent grade standard 3-5..
Fee £17.00 per group
Group of 7 to 16 people

045 Groups/ Bands/ Small Orchestras - Advanced
Award: Laoureux Trophy
Orchestral style performance. Group should comprise different instruments and/ or different parts.
Note our performance space is small (front of a church), and can comfortably accommodate around 12 performers. Depending on instrument size/ seating, we can increase this group size by a modest amount. Please discuss prior to entry if unsure.
Live only. For the advanced class, the majority of performers will be minimum grade 5.
Fee £17.00 per group
Group of 7 to 16 people

046 Bands and Orchestras by Recorded Performance
Your band or orchestra might have too many players for a live performance,
Or it might be difficult to get everyone together in Inverness
However, we would still be delighted to hear your performances.
Upload your video for non-competitive feedback.
Please note we may use your video on facebook or play it in the church (although this is not guaranteed), so by entering this class you give us permission. If you have any concerns about this, please email invernessmusicfestival@gmail.com.
You do not have to upload your video until January 2027.
Fee £10.00 per group
Group of 2 to 99 people

Scottish Traditional Music

These classes include all Scottish Traditional music, solo performers, groups and bands.
Here you will find, specialist fiddle, clarsach, song and piping classes. However, you can play any instrument at all under the 'traditional performance' classes.
Gaelic performances are welcome.

047 Traditional Music Performance Beginner Solo
Award: Balnain Trophy
One tune/ piece twice or 3 times through.
This should be music in any Scottish traditional style.
Includes self accompanied song and any instrument.
Beginner means you are in the early stages of your learning journey and are just beginning to gain confidence. Come and show us what you can do.
Fee £6.00

048 Traditional Music Performance Elementary Solo
A solo performance of Scottish style music. You can play two tunes, or one tune twice through.
For all instruments excluding clarsach and fiddle (which have their own classes). However, this class does include song with accompaniment (eg clarsach + voice)
You will have been playing for a little while and be gaining confidence. If you have a grade book, the tunes would be of a similar standard of difficulty to grade 1 or 2. This is only a guide.
Live performance.
Fee £6.50

049 Scottish Traditional Performance Intermediate Solo
Award: Liz Quinn Cup
A performance of music in a Scottish Style. Either two or 3 different tunes should be included. This class is suitable for all instruments with the exception of clarsach and fiddle (which have their own classes). Singers accompanying themselves on clarsach may enter here however.
You should be a confident player although not yet expert. If you have a grade book, the approximate equivalent standard would be 3-5.
Fee £8.50

050 Scottish Traditional Music Performance Open Solo
Award: Black Isle Shield for Accordion Menzies Cup for Performance
This class is for confident players who can give a fluent recital of Scottish traditional style music.
You should give a recital of 6-10 minutes.
Suitable for all instruments which do not have a separate class (ie does not include fiddle, clarsach, bagpipes). Does include Accordion (trophy for best accordion player), Piano, whistle, self accompanied song (accompaniment can be clarsach), small pipes. any other instrument. Can be a performance which includes more than one instrument.
An accompanist is NOT permitted.

The winner will be invited to take part in the Elizabeth Davis competition. The runner up may also be invited if they play a different instrument and receive a distinction
Fee £14.00

051 Clarsach Elementary
Award: Coisir nan Teud trophy for best of Classes 48,49,50
One piece played either twice or 3 times through.
Own choice selection. A piece of RCS graded exam syllabus grade 1 or equivalent standard would be appropriate. It would be expected players would have been learning clarsach for up to 2 years.
This is a live class, but entrants who cannot attend can submit entries online (by video) for non-competitive comments.
Fee £7.50

052 Clarsach Intermediate
A performance of own selection of two tunes.
You should be gaining in confidence and style, and are likely to have been playing for a couple of years.
As a guide, the tunes might be compatible with the RCS graded syllabus grade 2-3.
Previous winners of this class should please enter the advanced level, or email for advice.
Live class. Entrants who cannot attend may submit a video for non-competitive comments.
Fee £9.50

053 Clarsach - Advanced
A performance of 2-3 tunes.
You will be a confident performer.
As a guide, the difficulty level might be compatible with the RCS graded syllabus Grade 4.
Th class is Live, but entrants who are unable to attend may submit a video for non-competitive comments.
Fee £11.00

054 Clarsach Open
Award: Soroptimists International of Inverness Quaich
A recital of music on the clarsach lasting 6-10 minutes.
This class is open to all.
You should be a confident and experienced player.
The winner will be invited to perform in the Elisabeth Davis Competition.
Fee £14.50

055 Fiddle Elementary
Award: Allan Trophy
A performance of own choice of tune, either 2 or 3 times through.
You should be in the developmental stage of your fiddle playing. Your tune selection may, as a guide, be compatible with the selection available RCS Grade 1-2.
The class is live. However entrants who are unable to attend may submit a video for non-competitive comments.
Fee £7.50

056 Fiddle Intermediate
Award: The Webster Memorial Trophy
A performance of 2 tunes of different tempos.
You will have been playing for some time and are fluent and confident. However you are not yet at an expert level.
As a guide, the difficulty level of your tunes may be compatible with RCS graded syllabus, Grade 3.
The class is live, but entrants who are unable to attend may, if they wish, submit a video for non-competitive comments.
Fee £10.00

057 Fiddle Advanced
Award: Highland Strathspey and Reel Society Challenge Cup
A performance of a March, Strathspey and a Reel.
You should be a fluent and competent performer, choosing more advanced pieces.
As a general guide, the standard should be compatible with at least RCS Grade 4 syllabus.
The class is live. Entrants who cannot attend may submit a video for non- competitive feedback if they wish.
Fee £11.50

058 Slow Air - Open
Come and play us your favourite slow air.
You should play the tune at least twice through.
If you wish to enter on a non- competitive basis please tick the box on the entry form.
Fee £4.00

059 Open Fiddle Competition
Award: Scott Skinner Trophy
Fiddle Recital of Own Choice.
For experienced players. 10 minutes maximum
The winner will be invited to play in the Elizabeth Davis premier competition.
Fee £14.50

060 Chanter 10 years and Under
Award: Inverness Pipe Bands Trophy
Any 2 March of own choice

In the event an entrant is unable to attend the live class, they may submit a video for non-competitive comments.
Fee £7.00
Age 10 and younger

061 Chanter 11 years and older
Award: Maclennan Quaich
Any 2 or 4 Part March of own choice - 2-part played twice or 4 part once through.

In the event an entrant is unable to play live, they may sibmit a video for non-competitive comments.
Chanter players may enter Novice Piping, but no other Piping classes.
Fee £7.00
Age 11 and older

062 Novice Piping
Award: The Lovat Cup
Any 2 or 4 part March (2/4) of own choice. 2 part twice though or 4 part once through.

For early stage pipers who typically have been playing for less than a year.
This is a live class, but in the event entrants are unable to attend they may submit a video for non-competitive comments.
Fee £8.00

063 Piping Intermediate
Award: Piping Society of Inverness Cup 1
Own Choice of March (4 parts) AND own choice of Strathspey and Reel (4 parts each) It is possible to retune after the March.
If unable to attend you may submit a video for comments (non-competitive)

Entrants may NOT also enter Open Piping, but may enter the Open Jig,
Fee £10.50

064 Piobaireachd Ground 15 years and Under
Award: Piping Society of Inverness Cup 2
Piobaireachd Ground -

Live performance
Highland Dress should be worn
Fee £10.50

065 Open Piping
Own Choice of March (minimum 4 parts) AND own choice of Strathspey and Reel (minimum 4 parts each). It is possible to retune after the March.
Highland dress should be worn.
The winner of the competition is eligible to perform at the Elizabeth Davis Premier Competition.
it is possible to perform on a non-competitive basis if preferred.
Fee £14.00

066 Open Piobaireachd
Entrants aged 15 or under should enter the Piobaireachd Ground class
This class may also be entered by video submission. Marking of videos will be non competitive unless there are no live entries.
Fee £15.00
Age 16 and older

067 Piping 'Outside the Box'
Award: The Curtis Craig Memorial Quaich will be presented t the performance the adjudicators find the most innovative and enjoyable.
Your opportunity to be creative.
Maybe you have written your own tunes? Maybe you would like to play as a duo or ensemble or with another instrument?
Anything piping related you would like to do- we would like to see it....
This class may be held at a separate time to the other piping classes.
Fee £6.00

068 Piping Jig - Open Competition
Award: The RBLS Inverness Branch Piping Quaich
One jig (4 parts) of own choice.

Open to all.
If you are unable to attend in person you may submit a vdie for non-competitive comments.
Fee £11.00

069 Traditional Scottish Song Primary
Award: The Urquhart Cup
One song of own free choice.
May be in Dialect or Gaelic if preferred.
The official accompanist may be requested.
Primary age.
Fee £6.50

070 Scottish Traditional Song Secondary
Award: Milligan Cup
One Scottish Song of own choice.
Official accompanist may be requested.
May be sung in dialect or in Gaelic
Fee £9.50

071 Traditional Scottish Song Open
Award: Kinoull Cup
2 Songs in a traditional Scottish style.
Own choice - this may include Gaelic song and songs in dialect. Also includes modern compositions in a traditional style.
The official accompanist may be requested.
Open to confident performers of all ages.
Fee £13.50

072 Scots Song Session - Open 1-4 Singers
Award: Saltire Society Trophy
A performance of a Scottish Song or Scottish Heritage Song in a more relaxed session or folk club style.
Trophy for the winners but you don't have to compete if you just want to come and perform without comments- let us know.

One or more of the group may accompany on guitar etc.
Fee Solo: £4.00
Group: £5.00 per person
Solo or Group of 2 to 4 people

073 Traditional Scottish Music Duo/ Trio
Award: Swordale Trophy
A performance of two Scottish traditional tunes or songs by a duet or trio.

This is an open class. However, please state on the entry form if all participants are primary age, as there will be a separate award.

Fee £10.00 per duo/trio
Group of 2 to 3 people

074 Scottish Traditional Music Groups/ Bands Primary
Award: Ness Trophy
A recital of Scottish music to include at least 2 tempos.
Groups must be at least 4 players.
In addition, or included in the 4, there may be one adult or secondary accompanist if needed.
Fee £15.00 per group
Group of a minimum of 4 people

075 Traditional Music Groups Mixed School Ages
A performance of a traditional music set with at least 2 tempos.
Suitable for mixed school age groups.
Fee £12.00 per group
Group of 2 to 16 people

076 Scottish Traditional Music Groups/ Bands Secondary
Award: Clan Munro Association Cup
A recital of Scottish Traditional music to include 3 tempos
The group may include primary age performers.
No adult accompanists or adults in a supporting role permitted.
Groups must be at least 3 players.
Fee £15.50 per group
Group of a minimum of 3 people

077 Open Trad Bands
Award: The Sheila and Roddie Urquhart Quaich
A recital of Scottish Music to include 3 tempos.
Players may be of any age.
Bands/ Groups must be at least 3 players.
Fee £16.00 per group
Group of a minimum of 3 people

Vocal

Here you will find descriptions of all the Vocal Classes. These will be held during both festival weeks. There is a large range of events to chose from, including choirs, duets and trios and solo performance. Choirs may like to take part in a sharing event (non-competitive, just for fun)

078 Pre-School Performed Song/ Nursery Rhyme - English or Gaelic
Award: Rossal Cup
One Song or Nursery Rhyme. Own choice. In English or Gaelic
dressing up and having fun required.
Live class but if preferred entries may be recorded and submitted online.
Please note if submitting online, all participants must have permission for the video to be played in the venue.
Fee £9.00 per group
Group of any size

079 Performed Song Primary P1-P2
Award: Culduthel Cup
One Song Own Choice.
Performed Song can involve dressing up, actions and props.
The category is often entered by schools, but can be entered by organisations (eg uniformed) or friend groups.

In order to meet copyright law, song music must be published for use by choirs, and music provided on the day. Official backing tracks only.

There are a mximum of 6 entries for this class.
Fee £14.00 per group
Group of 4 to 40 people

080 Performed Song P3-P5
Award: Carol Schroder Cup
A performance of one song.
Dressing up, props and actions are encouraged in this class.
Schools are the usual entrants but uniformed groups and friend groups may also enter.

In order to meet copyright law, song music must be published for use by choirs, and music provided on the day. Official backing tracks only.

There are a maximum of 6 entries for this class
Fee £14.00 per group
Group of 4 to 40 people

081 Performed Song Mixed Primary Age Groups
Award: Donna Campbell Memorial Trophy
For this class there should usually be a mix of at least 3 age groups P1-P7. Mixes of two ages groups which do not fit the other categories will be considered,
Dress up and have fun. Props and actions encouraged.
One Song
Suitable for schools, uniformed groups, friend groups.
In order to meet copyright law, song music must be published for use by choirs, and music provided on the day. Official backing tracks only.
There will be a maximum of 6 entries for this class.
Fee £14.00 per group
Group of 4 to 40 people

083 Choirs P1-P3
Award: Inshes Challenge Trophy
Please note that groups who want to dress up and use props to interpret their performance should enter performed song.
One Song of own choice.
The official accompanist may be requested.
Note: Composite classes P3/P4 should enter this class unless predominantly P4 pupils.

In order to meet copyright law, song music must be published for use by choirs, and music provided on the day. Official backing tracks only.

The maximum number of entries to this class is 6.

Fee £14.00 per group
Group of 4 to 40 people

084 Choirs P4-P7
Award: Kingsmills Trophy
Please note that choirs who wish to dress up and interpret their performance should enter Performed Song.
The official accompanist may be requested.
In order to meet copyright law, song music must be published for use by choirs, and music provided on the day. Official backing tracks only.
One song of own choice
Please note that there is a maximum capacity of 6 choirs.
Fee £14.00 per group
Group of 4 to 40 people

085 Youth Choirs 18 and Under
A performance of 2 contrasting songs.
The official accompanist may be requested.
In order to meet copyright law, song music must be published for use by choirs, and music provided on the day. Official backing tracks only.
Entries in Gaelic are welcome.
Entries may be online for non-competitive feedback and will be shown at the event.
Fee £15.50 per group
Group of a minimum of 4 people

086 Open Choirs Event
Award: St Aubyn Cup
Open to choirs of all ages and all genres.
Bring us two contrasting songs.
Friendly competition - however we will have a sharing event at the end so please enter Choir Sharing Class instead if you would prefer to perform but not to compete.
9/1/2026 Update. We will be running a youth choirs stream to this event,
Fee £15.50 per group
Group of a minimum of 6 people

087 Choir Sharing Event
The theme of this year's festival is 'Celebrate.' so it would be great to hear some party songs, but whatever your choice we would be delighted to hear it

We are asking for a £3 registration fee.
Fee £3.00 per group
Group of 4 to 66 people

088 Primary Vocal Solo
Award: Sunflower Trophy
A small and cosy event in our Small Hall for primary solo singers.
We suggest:
One Song Chosen from Section C of the current ABRSM syllabus grade 1-3.
However, other song choices will be accepted.
The official accompanist may be requested.
Fee £5.50

089 Solo Intermediate Vocal 13 and Under
Any song chosen from the ABRSM syllabus Grade 4 or above.
The official accompanist may be requested.
Fee £8.00

090 Secondary Solo Vocal Contemporary
Award: Emergency Services Trophy and Jade Voiceworks Trophy
Secondary Aged performers in any contemporary style including rock/ pop/ jazz.
One song of own choice.
The Voiceworks cup will be awarded to the winning male voice performance
The Emergency Services Trophy will be awarded to the winning female voice performance.
Fee £9.50

091 Secondary Solo Vocal Classical
Award: Christina Cameron Cup
A performance of two classical style songs which may include Opera/ Operetta, Sacred or Art Songs.
The winner will be invited to perform in the Curtis Craig Competition if a distinction mark is awarded.
Fee £11.00

092 Secondary - Songs from Stage and Screen
Award: Inverness Singers Scroll
Songs from Stage and Screen Perform your choice of Song from Stage and Screen - credit for both vocal performance and ability to interpret the role.
We recommend use of the ABRSM Musical theatre syllabus at an appropriate level.
Fee £10.00

093 Musical Theatre Event - Adult 16 years and over
Come and perform your choice of musical theatre song/ scene.
Credit will be given for ability to interpret the role
Fee £13.00

094 Adult Solo (16 and over) Contemporary Vocal
Award: Christina Cameron Quaich
One or two songs of own choice. Contemporary style including rock, pop, jazz.
The official accompanist may be requested
Fee £12.00

095 Adult (16 and over) Solo Vocal Classical
Award: Inverness opera Company Trophy - Best Operatic Performance ,Rena Beaton Salver - Overall Class Winner. Fairburn Challenge Trophy - Best sacred music performance,
A recital of classical repertoire not to exceed 12 minutes.
The Fairburn trophy is awarded to the best over 16 sacred music performance.
The inverness Opera Company Trophy is awarded to the best Operatic Performance.
Fee £14.00

096 Primary Sing with a Partner
Feeling Shy?
First time at the festival?
Why not sing with a partner. It could be a friend, brother or sister, or Mum, Dad , teacher....
Come and share your performance. You will get a big welcome from our adjudicator and audience, and a certificate.
Fee £4.00 per duo
Group of 2 people

097 Secondary Vocal - Small Groups
One song of own choice sung by a small group of 2-8 singers who are all of secondary age
The music must have more than one voice part.
The official accompanist may be requested.
Fee £8.00 per person
Group of 2 to 8 people

098 Adult Vocal Small Groups(16 and over)
Two songs of own choice.
The group should consist of 2-8 singers, and there should be more than one voice part.
Official accompanist may be requested.
Fee £9.00 per group
Group of 2 to 8 people

Speech and Drama

Speech and Drama classes will be held on both festival weeks.
This section includes poetry, drama, public speaking and debating, for both groups and solo performers.

100 Drama Performance P4-P7 Solo or Duo
Award: For 2026 : Inverness Arts Forum Trophy
Performance of a dramatic monologue or duologue.
Eg Selection from LAMDA Monologues and Duologues for young actors.
Entrants may enter both as a solo and as a duo.
Please upload a copy of the piece at least 1 week before the event.
Fee Solo: £3.00
Duo: £6.00 per person
Solo or Group of 2 people

101 Dramatic Performance S1-S3 Solo or Duo
Award: Florian's Trophy for Speech
Performance of own choice Monologue or Duologue
eg from LAMDA Monologues and Duologues for Young Actors or Monologues and Duologues for teenage actors.
Entrants may perform both as a solo and as part of a duo.
Please upload a copy of the piece at least one week before the event,
Fee Solo: £4.00
Duo: £4.00 per person
Solo or Group of 2 people

102 Devised Drama P7- S3 Groups LIVE
Your group will be asked to devise a dramatic performance of up to 10 minutes on a topic set by our adjudicator. Entries by 20th December. Topic will then by supplied by 5th January.
Fee £8.00 per group
Group of 2 to 23 people

103 SP15 Secondary Groups/ Duos Poetry Performance
Award: The Florians Trophy for Speech
A performance of a poem by a group of 2 or more secondary age.
Own choice
Fee £6.00 per group
Group of any size
Up to 5 mins

104 Senior Poetry/ Drama performance
Participants aged 14 years to adult are invited to a dramatic performance class.
We had some wonderful Burns performance in the past- whatever you would like to bring- the choice is yours!
Online or Live performances accepted- please specify on entry form.
Maximum performance time 6 minutes
Fee £4.50

105 Group Verse ' Dress up and Perform' P1-P3
Award: The Caroline Tait shield will be awarded for this year only for this class.
Group performance of a poem.
Group of any number 2 or more.
Free choice of poem. Dressing up welcome (but not compulsory).
Fee £9.00 per group
Group of 2 to 30 people

107 SP16 Public Speaking Teams S1-S3
Award: The Inverness Speakers Club Trophy
Topic of own choice to be presented within 10 minutes.
Groups may be 2-4 participants and may have up to:
Chair, Speaker 1, speaker 2, vote of thanks.

The Inverness Speakers Club Trophy will be awarded.
Fee £8.50 per group
Group of 3 to 4 people
Up to 10 mins

108 SP17 Public Speaking Teams S4-S6
Award: The Inverness Speakers Club Trophy
Topic of own choice to be presented within 10 minutes.
Teams of 3 will present their topic. Each team will have a chair, a speaker and a vote of thanks.

The Inverness Speakers Club Trophy will be awarded
Fee £8.50 per group
Group of 3 to 4 people
Up to 10 mins

109 DC01 DEBATING S1- S3
Award: Loch Broom Shield
Debating teams will consist of 2-3 speakers.
The topic will be set the day before and prepared by the team.
Inverness Festival Debating Rules available on request.
Fee £8.00 per duo/trio
Group of 2 to 3 people

110 DC02 DEBATING S4- S6
Award: The Lamont Cup
Depending on entry numbers, there may be a Debating Grand final.

Please request Inverness Festival Debating Rules.
Fee £8.00 per duo/trio
Group of 2 to 3 people

Performance for ALL

Here you will find an interesting range of classes - from our Junior Faith event, to sessions specially for those who are lacking in confidence,, or may need additional support. We also have advanced feedback classes for those preparing for school and music exams- these can be entered online.

111 Music Groups Non Competitive - Open ages
Are you in an amateur music group or band? Do you play alongside your family? Not interested in competing but would love to get involved> We would be delighted to hear you - This is the class for you !
This class is non-compeititve. We will give you verbal or written feedback if you would like. Or if you just want to perform that's fine too! Come along and give us a couple of your tunes.
We very much appreciate a £3 registration fee
Fee £3.00

112 Music Groups - 13 and Under
Award: Lady Hermione Campbell of Lochiel Trophy
You must be wearing a uniform of some kind, for your club, school or group. Your musical performance of a song or tune may be instrumental only or include voice and instruments.
The historic Lady Hermione Cameron of Lochiel shield will be awarded.
Fee £8.00 per group
Group of any size

113 Additional Supported Needs Solo performance - Poetry, Drama or Music LIVE OR ONLINE
Additional Supported Needs. School Age
Own choice of material.
Please advise on entry form or by email to admin@invernessmusicfestival.org of any special arrangements to facilitate the performance.
Non Competitive.
Fee £4.00

114 Additional Supported Needs Group Performance - Poetry, Drama or Music LIVE Or ONLINE
Own choice
Additional Supported Learning Needs School Age
Please advise on entry form of any special arrangements to facilitate the performance.
Non Competitive.
Fee £8.00 per group
Group of any size

115 Advanced Recital Live or Online
This is a non competitive class for advanced musicians to practice performing repertoire and to receive feedback.
In our live section we can accept entries on piano, woodwind, brass, strings (classical) Song.
We can also accept Scottish or other traditional music performances.
Maximum performance length 12 minutes.
Fee £13.00

116 Nervous Adults- any genre(16 and over) Online or Live

Part of our 'nervous adults programme' - Adults are welcome to take part in any of our non-age restricted classes, but we understand it can be a daunting experience! This is a class designed for shy adults 18 years+. This is ideal for a first experience of playing at the festival.

Experience our friendly and supportive environment, and a non-competitive adjudication. The audience will consist only of your invited friends and family, or adjudicator and the festival organisers. Dont be shy - do take part, whatever your stage, age or instrument (includes Voice) or genre. You can provide your own accompaniment, use a backing track, or we can provide the festival accompanist for you. If your music is published, you must submit a copy for the Adjudicator. Please note that the same piece may not subsequently be played in a different class.

You can also enter this class if you would like to perform in drama, or gaelic speech.

You may join in online if you prefer.

Fee £8.00

Age 18 and older

117 Nervous Performers Class Live or Online (U16)

Sometimes we want to play or sing but can be overwhelmed at the thought of standing up in front of other people.

If you have these worries, this class is for you. We will do everything we can to support your performance. tell us what you need to help you. you can play/ sing - on your own with your family for the adjudicator, behind a sceen, on video - whatever it takes. You know you will feel better if you go ahead! Let us know what you would like to play and sing, and we will be in touch to find out the best way to support you.

Non-competitive. Feedback if required.

Fee £4.00

118 Junior Faith Event

For Age 14 and under...

Sunday School classes or any others! SIng a song, do a reading, give a 3 minute talk, act out a story.

Open to all - whatever you would like to do!

Contact us for ideas or help if you need. Solo or group

Fee Solo: £3.00

Group: £6.00 per group

Solo or Group of 2 to 26 people

Age 14 and younger

Creative

This group of classes is for all our creative entries from music composition of all genres to poetry and Art

119 SC06 Celtic Original Composition
Award: The Highland Music Trust Quaich
A Performance of Scottish style music of original composition.
Submit your video performance or sound file or choose live performance. Both live and online performances will compete (unless you choose non-competitive).
Upload your score if you have one, but this is not compulsory for this class.
Entries may be vocal or instrumental.
Fee £8.50
Up to 6 mins

120 Improvisation and composition without score-
This class is for either music compositions without score, or free improvisation on a theme of your choice.
This class is live but non competitive entries may be submitted by video.
Any age. Any style.
Come along and show us what you can do.
Fee £8.00

121 Open Composition (Classical or contemporary)
Award: James McAdam Memorial Trophy
An Original music composition. Any age group.
As a guide, performance time should be 3- 6 minutes.
Please seek advice before entering if your composition is longer than 7 minutes.
You should submit your score, and a recording, video, or Sound file (eg Sibelius) of your composition.
You can also choose to enter live. Online and live entries will both be competitive unless you choose otherwise.
Fee £10.00
Up to 6 mins

122 Poetry Composition Primary P4-P7 Online
We are looking forward to seeing your poems.
You can write on any topic, but our festival theme is 'Spring'
Please upload written or typed copy for the adjudicator.
Entries accepted in Gaelic or in English.
If you would like to also upload a video of yourself speaking your poem, then please do- this is optional
Fee £0.00

123 Poetry Composition Secondary S1-S3 Online
You should submit a written or typed copy for the adjudicator.
Entries accepted in Gaelic or in English.
The Festival Theme for 2027 is 'Spring'. You can interpret this however you wish
Fee £0.00

124 Poetry Composition Secondary S4-S6
You should submit a video of yourself (or someone else) performing your poem, and upload a written or typed copy for the adjudicator.
Participants will be invited to perform their poem (or have it performed) at a live online discussion.
Fee £3.00

125 Poetry Composition Adult
You should submit a video of yourself (or someone else) performing your poem, and upload a written or typed copy for the adjudicator.
Participants will be invited to perform their poem if they wish.
Maximum length 30 lines.
Fee £3.50
Age 18 and older

126 Gaelic Poetry/Song Composition Adult
Submit a video of yourself performing your original poem or original song in Gaelic.
Fee £3.50

127 Play your own traditional tune!
For inexperienced composers of Scottish Traditional Music! Can you try making up a 16 bar tune? Would you like to come and play it for us? Your tune should be played at least twice through, we would love to hear the composer play it if possible.
This is a live class. Please bring a print out of your tune if you can. We would be delighted to share tunes in a short join in session for all entrants at the end of the class if feasible.
Open to all age groups.
Fee £3.00

How to Enter

Entires Open on 19th October.
Head to our website www.invernessmusicfestival.org. On the top left of the homepage you will see a box which says 'Enter Here'. This will take you to the online entry portal. You will need to create an account with 'Play and Perform, and then you will see all the classes available. When you make an entry you will be asked questions, and can add comments - for example about your availability, or any help you need on the day.

If you are finding it difficult to see where your performance will fit, we are very happy to help. Please email invernessmusicfestival@gmail.com

Inverness Music Festival has run since 1922! Come along and join the tradition -