

Inverness Music Festival 2026

Syllabus

Celebrating Performance

for Everyone



Festival 2026 Syllabus

Where to Start

Inverness Music Festival takes place between 5th and 15th March 2026, 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.

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 composition. We also have a primary art competition. There are also 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 are very happy to help invernessmusicfestival@gmail.com

Once you have chosen a class, you need to make your entry. The initial closing date is 20th December. Then you have plenty of time to practice! We will give you your exact time to attend nearer the time.

We cannot give exact dates and times until the entries are made. However, Classical Contemporary Strings and Woodwind/ Brass is likely to be 5th and 6th March, and piano 6th-7th March. Speech and Vocal classes will run on 5th, 6th, 12th and 13th March. Traditional music events will take place on 13th- 14th March. Our 'Premier Competition' will take place on Sunday 15th March.

If you have a specific restriction on dates or times when you can take part, then please ask 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.

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

001 501 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

002 502 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

003 503 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

13 and younger

005 Woodwind Elementary (Grade 1-2).

Award: The Christina Cameron Quaich 2 will be awarded to the entrant with the 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)

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) for the best performance from 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- Best of Elementary Strings

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.

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: Scjarek 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-competitive) if an entrant is 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

021 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

022 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

023 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

024 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

025 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

026 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

027 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

028 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

029 Inverness Music Festival Open Piano Recital Competition

Award: Open Piano 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

030 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

031 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

032 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

033 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

034 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 2026 theme is 'Celebrate'. 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

035 Intermediate Themed Piano

You will be taking part in our themed piano class. The theme for 2026 is 'Celebrate'. 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

036 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 'Celebrate'. You should include at least two different pieces or themes. You should introduce your programme.

Winners scoring a distinction may be eligible for the Curtis Craig Competition.

Live Class

Fee £12.50

037 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

038 Primary Small Ensemble

Award: Eastgate Cup (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

Fee £11.00 per group

Group of 2 to 8 people

039 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

040 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

041 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

042 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

043 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

044 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 and score until January 2026.

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.

045 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

046 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

047 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

048 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

049 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 from RCS graded exam syllabus grade 1 or 2 or equivalent standard.

This is a live class, but entrants who cannot attend can submit entries online (by video) for non-competitive comments.

Fee £7.50

050 Clarsach Intermediate

A performance of own selection of two tunes.

You should be gaining in confidence and style.

As a guide, the tunes might be compatible with the RCS graded syllabus grade 3.

Live class. Entrants who cannot attend may submit a video for non-competitive comments.

Fee £9.50

051 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.

The class is Live, but entrants who are unable to attend may submit a video for non-competitive comments.

Fee £11.00

052 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

053 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

054 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

055 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

056 Slow Air - Open

Come and play us your favourite slow air.

You should play the tune at least twice through.

This is a non-competitive class suitable for all levels of fiddle playing, all ages.

If you have never played in the festival before and want to give it a try, this could be for you.

The adjudicator will give written comments, but you can state if you just want to play, with no comments.

Fee £4.00

057 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

058 Chanter 10 years and Under

Award: Inverness Pipe Bands Trophy

Any 2 or 4 part March of own choice - 2-part twice or 4 part once through.

In the event an entrant is unable to attend the live class, they may submit a video for non-competitive comments.

Fee £7.00

10 and younger

059 Chanter 11 years and older

Award: MacLennan Quaich

Any 2 or 4 Part March of own choice - 2-part twice or 4 part once through.

In the event an entrant is unable to play live, they may submit a video for non-competitive comments.

Chanter players may enter Novice Piping, but no other Piping classes.

Fee £7.00

11 and older

060 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

061 Piping Intermediate

Award: Piping Society of Inverness Cup

Own Choice of March AND own choice of Strathspey and Reel. 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

062 Piobaireachd Ground 15 years and Under

Award: Piping Society of Inverness

Piobaireachd Ground -

Live performance

Highland Dress should be worn

Fee £10.50

063 Open Piping

Own Choice of March AND own choice of Strathspey and Reel. 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.

Please note that those wishing for feedback on a Piobaireachd performance may enter the Advanced Recital Category (Class 112) This is non -competitive. You will give your performance and receive advice and feedback from our adjudicator.

Fee £14.00

064 Piping Ideas Inverness

Award: The Curtis Craig Memorial Quaich will be presented to 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 £10.00

065 Piping Jig - Open Competition

Award: The RBLIS Inverness Branch Piping Quaich

One jig of own choice.

Open to all.

If you are unable to attend in person you may submit a video for non-competitive comments.

Fee £11.00

066 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

067 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

068 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

069 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

070 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

071 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

072 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

073 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

074 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 choose from, including choirs, duets and trios and solo performance. Choirs may like to take part in a sharing event (non-competitive, just for fun)

075 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

076 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 maximum of 6 entries for this class.

Fee £14.00 per group

Group of 4 to 40 people

077 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

078 Performed Song Mixed Primary Age Groups

Award: Donna Campbell Memorial Trophy

For this class there must be a mix of at least 3 age groups P1-P7.

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

079 Action Song Primary

Award: Northern Meeting Trophy

Re-introduced for our Centenary- as the early syllabuses suggest children took part in the 'Action Song' category

See if you can find out about a traditional action song and perform it- or create your own action song for a modern audience!

You can submit your entry by video or perform it live.

There are a maximum of 6 entries for this class

Fee £14.00 per group

Group of 3 to 42 people

080 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

081 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

082 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

083 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 Class instead if you would prefer to perform but not to compete.

Fee £15.50 per group

Group of a minimum of 6 people

084 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

085 Primary Vocal Solo

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

086 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

087 Secondary Solo Vocal Contemporary

Award: The Voiceworks Jade 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 Robertson Cup will be awarded to the winning female voice performance.

Fee £9.50

088 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

089 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

090 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

091 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

092 Adult (16 and over) Solo Vocal Classical

Award: Rena Beaton Salver

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

093 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

094 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

095 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.

096 Solo Verse Performance P1-P3

Please perform:

'The Small Ghostie' by Barbara Ireson

If you prefer, you may choose your own short poem.

Entrants may recite, or read if they prefer.

Fee £3.00

097 Drama Performance P4-P7 Solo or Duo

Award: 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

098 Dramatic Performance S1-S3 Solo or Duo

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

099 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 be supplied by 5th January.

Fee £8.00 per group

Group of 2 to 23 people

100 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

101 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.

Fee £4.50

102 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

103 Group Verse 'Dress up and Perform' P4-P7

Award: Carol Schroder Cup

Own Choice of poem.

Have fun - dress up, use props, and lets see some poems!

The Carol Schroder Cup will be awarded,

Fee £11.00 per group

Group of 2 to 30 people

Up to 4 mins

104 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

105 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

106 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

107 DC02 DEBATING S4- S6

Award: Debating Trophy

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.

108 Music Groups - 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-competitive. 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

109 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

110 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

111 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

112 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

113 Nervous Adults Performance Class Live or Online (16 and over)

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. Don't 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

18 and older

114 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 screen, 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

115 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

14 and younger

Creative

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

116 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

117 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

118 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

119 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 'Celebrate'

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 £2.00

120 Poetry Composition Secondary S1-S3 Online

You should submit a video of yourself (or someone else) performing your poem, and upload a written or typed copy for the adjudicator.

Entries accepted in Gaelic or in English.

Fee £4.00

121 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

122 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

18 and older

123 Gaelic Poetry/Song Composition Adult

Submit a video of yourself performing your original poem or original song in Gaelic.

Fee £3.50

124 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

125 Primary Art Competition

Draw a Picture on the theme of MY DREAM PARTY

A4 size Portrait style

Please upload a scan of your picture.

Individuals or school classes welcome to enter.

Teachers may post original artwork in batches instead if they prefer - please email to check the best address to send.

Please note, the closing date is 31st January, but postal entries must be received by 21st January,

Fee £0.00

12 and younger

126 Secondary Design Competition

Design a Cover for Next Year's 2027 festival.

Your design must be A4 portrait style and must include the words 'Performance for Everyone'

Fee £0.00

How to Enter

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.

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