

Inverness Music Festival 2026



Syllabus

**Celebrating
Performance
for Everyone**



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Welcome to our 2026 Syllabus

IMPORTANT UPDATE. We are in LATE ENTRY PHASE 21/12/25- 04/01/2026. Some of our classes have closed, and others may close over this period, once they have been scheduled. If you wish to enter and cannot see a suitable class, please get in touch.

Our motto is 'Performance for Everyone!'. This means whatever your age or stage, whether you are an individual or a group, whether you just want to have fun, whether you want to join in a competition, or receive detailed specialist feedback, you will be very welcome. We can always help you find an event suitable for your needs.

We are known as Inverness Music Festival, but don't forget we also have events for Speech, Debating, Composition, and even Art.

Our venue is Inverness Methodist Church. Participants should note there is no parking at the church and should plan their day carefully if not using public transport.

During and post pandemic we held many classes online. We are glad to say that nearly every class is now live again. There are some exceptions but otherwise we hope to see everyone in person in 2026. However, for every class, if you find you can't attend or if you would simply like to enter by recorded performance, you will be able to submit a video. You won't be able to compete, but the video will be played on the day and you will receive a mark and feedback.

Don't forget, if performing isn't for you, we always need volunteers and kind' supportive audiences.

Why support Inverness music festival?

- To have fun and meet interesting people- join us for a little while, watch a few events, become part of our community,
- To have something to practice for and work towards- as a group or as a solo
- To challenge yourself
- To gain confidence
- To have a platform- the stage is yours!
- To experience a friendly competition.
- To gain feedback

Our theme for 2026 is 'Celebrate' so we are looking forward to a lively atmosphere.

Our provisional dates for 2026 are:

Speech/Drama, Classical/ Contemporary 4th-7th March

Traditional: 12th- 14th March.

There will be some vocal on both weekends.

If you have questions - get in touch! invernessmusicfestival@gmail.com

Online Entries

Any video entries should be submitted online via 'Play and Perform'. Please see our website and Facebook pages for advice about the best way to record and present your videos.

Fully online classes will be adjudicated remotely, and you will be sent a link to view your class. If you have given permission, highlights will be available to view on our Facebook page or on YouTube during the festival period.

Please note that by entering an online class, we expect the class participants to view each other's videos to create an inclusive and supportive environment for all entrants.

Video performances can be recorded on any phone with a camera, and do not require highly specialised equipment. However, if you have difficulties accessing a suitable device, please contact us on invernessmusicfestival@gmail.com, and we will try to help.

Live Performances

Live participants need only bring their scores on the day plus an EXTRA photocopy for the adjudicator. You are not asked to specify your choice of music (unless you require the official accompanist)

Live performers may book the festival piano accompanist if they wish for many of our classes, although in most cases traditional music is performed without piano accompaniment. Requests for the official accompanist need to be reconfirmed by email. Please be mindful of our funding situation and do not book the accompanist unless you genuinely intend to use them. If you book the official accompanist you will need to supply them with a copy of the music in advance and you will not be able to change your mind about the choice of piece.

Watch out for our Festival concert! More details soon.

And Finally...

We are grateful to the Inverness Rotary Club, Highland Council Ward Discretionary Fund and Park Community Fund for supporting this event.

Also to the many supporters who helped us during a period of funding shortfall in 2025, and without whom we would not be able to bring you Festival 26.

Please spare a thought for the festival team. The festival depends on support from generous benefactors and supporters. We also need volunteers - in particular anyone with IT and Social Media experience, to help us out in January and February.

We very much hope you will enjoy browsing the syllabus, and please get in touch if you have any questions.

Email: invernessmusicfestival@gmail.com.

Website: www.invernessmusicfestival.org

Festival 2026 Syllabus

We are in Final Entry Phase until 16/1/26. This means that the festival has been timetabled. You will no longer see the full range of classes in the syllabus. We would welcome more entries in the classes you will see below, particularly in Strings, Solo vocal, Creative section and Speech and Drama. If you have forgotten to enter, and do not see the class you require, please email us on Invernessmusicfestival@gmail.com, and we will do our best to accommodate your performance.

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 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 are 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.

Classical Vocal and Woodwind/ Brass will take place on 5th March. Strings will be on 6th March. Piano 7th - 8th March. Speech and Vocal classes will run on 6th, and 13th March. Other vocal classes will run on 6th March and 13th March. Piping will take place on 12th March and other Traditional music events will take place on 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 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.

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

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

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

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.

23/12/2025 Live entries now closed. You may still enter for ONLINE, or email for advice about waiting list.

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).

23/12/2025 Live Entries closed. You may still enter for online performance, or email for information about waiting list.

There will be separate placings for live and online entries.

Fee £7.50

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)

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 mximum 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 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

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

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 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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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. 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

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

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

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

128 Art Competition for Adults

By popular request- a version of our art competition for adults

All you creative folk why not design us a cover or poster for the 2027 music festival

Please register your entry, not need to upload it until 18th January.

Fee £0.00

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.

129 Fiddle Workshop for Early Stage Strings players

Rachel Campbell will run a workshop for up to 8 players on the afternoon of Saturday 14th March.

If you would like to join in, you should have a violin of your own, and know how to hold it, know the names of the strings and preferably be able to play a simple tune such as Twinkles. This is a great opportunity to try learning an easy Scottish traditional fiddle tune. You will be learning by ear - reading musical notation is not required

Fee £2.00

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 -