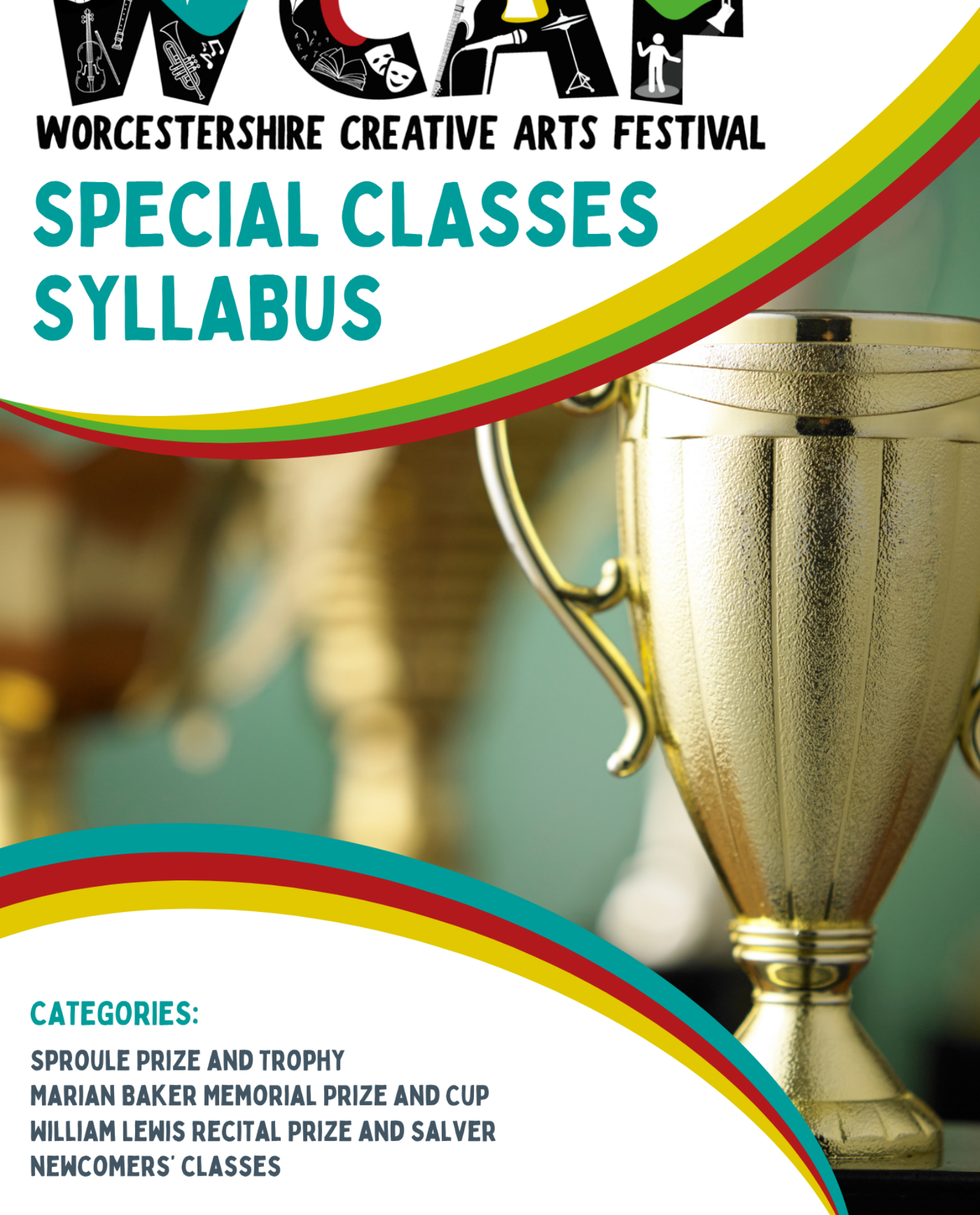
WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

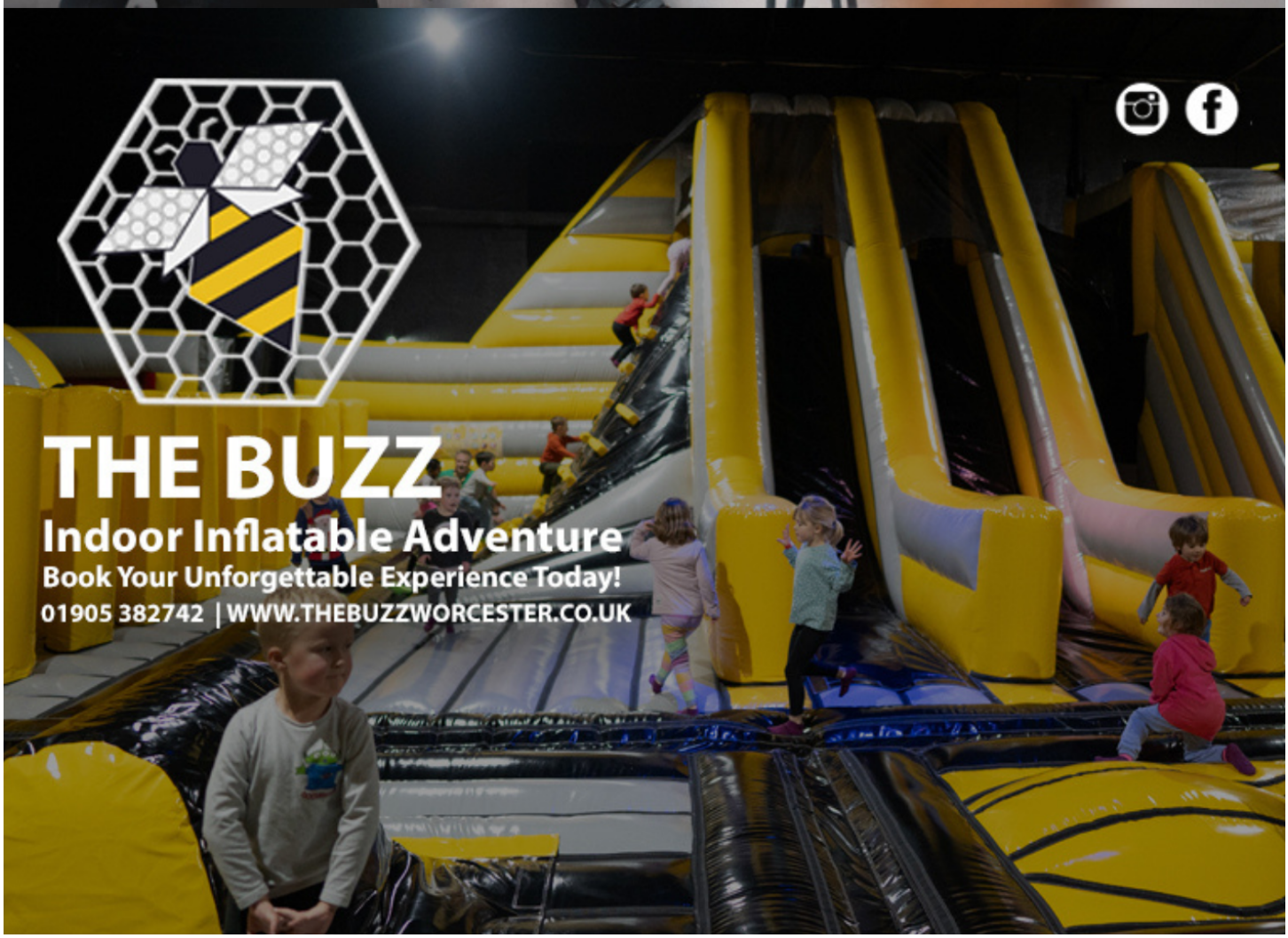
# SPECIAL CLASSES SYLLABUS



## CATEGORIES:

SPROULE PRIZE AND TROPHY
MARIAN BAKER MEMORIAL PRIZE AND CUP
WILLIAM LEWIS RECITAL PRIZE AND SALVER
NEWCOMERS' CLASSES


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# SPECIAL CLASSES Syllabus

WCAF has special classes across the festival to celebrate and reward high achievement. A 20% 'early bird' discount is available until 1st December 2026 (the prices advertised throughout the syllabus and on Play&Perform include this discount and will change from 1st December if entries have not been completed). We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin@wcaf.org.uk

Winners are expected to be available for the WCAF Festival Concert on Saturday 20th March 2027, where trophies will be awarded.

Entrants may also be interested in other WCAF classes with specific prizes:
304 VALE TROPHY - OPEN CLASS FOR PIANO SOLO
930 FESTIVAL PRIZE FOR ACTING
1006 BERTULIS SOLO VERSE SPEAKING CHALLENGE TROPHY
1237/1238/1239 THE MARY MANNION COMPOSITION TROPHY
The above classes are listed in the relevant section, as they include only one discipline. The special classes below cross several disciplines and are intended to encourage and inspire young performers and give opportunities to perform to a supportive audience.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|---|---|---|
| **000 MARIAN BAKER MEMORIAL PRIZE & CUP**<br>Award: Marian Baker Cup & £45<br>Entrants should perform two contrasting pieces on any instrument or voice. A minimum standard of Grade 6 is required. | 12 and under | Up to 10 mins | £16.00 |
| **001 SPROULE PRIZE & TROPHY FOR SPEECH, DRAMA & MUSIC**<br>Award: 199 Sproule Trophy and £50<br>Entrants are required to perform either a poem or an acted scene AND a song or a piece of music on any instrument of the candidate's choice. | 15 and under | Up to 10 mins | £18.00 |
| **002 WILLIAM LEWIS RECITAL PRIZE & SALVER**<br>Award: 40 William Lewis Salver & £100 (requires Honours or higher)<br>Donated by the parents & friends of the late William Lewis of Stourport. An interesting, varied programme of two or more contrasting pieces for any instrument or voice, choice of which will be taken into account in adjudication. | Any | Up to 15 mins | £20.00 |

## NEWCOMERS' CLASSES

New to WCAF or performing in a festival for the first time? These welcoming, non-competitive classes are designed especially for first-time festival performers of all ages. Whether you play an instrument, sing, or recite a dramatic monologue or poem, you'll have the opportunity to experience the friendly, relaxed atmosphere of the festival.
No previous festival experience is needed. Simply choose a performance that you're proud of and enjoy performing before an experienced, understanding adjudicator and supportive audience. You'll receive encouraging verbal feedback designed to build confidence and celebrate your achievement. There are no trophies or placings - just a positive first festival experience that we hope will inspire you to return again and again. Everyone is welcome.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|---|---|---|
| **003 NEWCOMERS' CLASS - MUSIC & SINGING** | Any | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 |

# WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL RULES (2027)

## REVIEWED AND APPLICABLE FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2026.

### 1. Key Dates & Submissions

All entries must be made online via PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 8th January 2027. No other methods of entry are accepted.
'Early Bird' discounts end at 23:45 on 1st December 2026.
Full details of the piece(s) to be performed are requested but do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC or similar) but entries must updated and all entry information must be fully complete, with (where required) all backing tracks, videos and/or adjudicator manuscripts uploaded by 23:45 on 16th January 2027. Late submissions risk disqualification without refund.

### 2. Entry Fees & Discounts

All large ensembles are free of charge and 20% 'early bird' discount is available until 1st December 2026. Prices shown on Play&Perform are inclusive of any discount and prices will rise following the 'early bird' deadline.
We do not believe any performer should miss out due to financial hardship. Please contact us to discuss any free places and bursaries that may be available: admin@wcaf.org.uk
Fees are payable online at the point of entry. Credit/debit card or PayPal payments preferred. BACS transfers are acceptable and cheque payment may be accepted in exceptional circumstances. If you need an invoice or to pay by cheque, please contact: admin@wcaf.org.uk
Entries may be withdrawn by the entrant at any point, but fees are non-refundable.

### 3. Age Groups & Category Limits

Age Determination: The performer's age on 1st September 2026 determines class eligibility (aligned with the academic year):
8 & Under: School Year 4 and below
10 & Under: School Year 6 and below
12 & Under: School Year 8 and below
14 & Under: School Year 10 and below
16 & Under: School Year 12 and below
Open Categories: Open to all ages; adult solo categories are for ages 18+.
Groups, ensembles and choirs: It is assumed that the age of the majority of performers in any group, ensemble or choir aligns with the section entered. However, we recognise that this is not always possible. As long as the majority of performers are within the age limits, exceptions may be made (for example, where children are not in their expected school year.) The person making the entry must notify WCAF of any individuals whose ages do not align with the class entered ahead of making the entry, so that the correct class can be agreed. Please ensure the ages of the oldest and youngest performers in your group are included as part of your entry.
Entry Limits: Solo performers may enter only ONE age or standard class plus the OPEN class per section on the same instrument (including voice). Performing on different instruments or as part of multiple ensembles is permitted.
Repertoire: Performers must use a different piece for each entry in the same section.

### 4. Types of Classes

Across the festival, there are non-competitive classes for all ages and abilities. These classes may be found in the appropriate section. Entrants in all classes will receive written comments, a certificate and a classification in line with the BIFF mark scheme (Developing, Progressing, Merit, Commended, Honours, Outstanding, Exceptional).
Competitive Classes: 1st, 2nd and 3rd places may be also be awarded for competitive classes. Tied places are allowed.
Awards & Feedback: Certificates and written comments should be collected at the end of each class. Adjudicator decisions are final.
Non-Competitive Classes: Performances will simply be celebrated. No comparison will be made between performances and no places nor medals will be awarded. Each performer will receive written comments and a classification mark for their performance. However, these will not be announced and the adjudicator will simply give constructive comments on the performances overall. Entrants may also enter competitive classes.
Trophies and Prizes: WCAF trophies and prizes are awarded on the recommendation of the adjudicators and at the discretion of the WCAF committee. Unless specifically stated, trophies are not usually awarded simply for winning a competitive class. Trophies may therefore be awarded to performers in non-competitive classes. All trophies and prizes will be awarded at the Festival Concert. Trophy winners are required to sign a form on receipt of their trophy and take responsibility for the safe return of the trophy for the following year by 31st January. A fee may be charged if any trophy is returned late, damaged, dirty, missing its box or it is not returned at all.
Inclusive classes: We want to make WCAF as inclusive and accessible as possible. Therefore, we will make every effort to incorporate changes to existing classes and/or new classes to accommodate anyone who has additional needs in the way that is best for them. Please email admin@wcaf.org.uk to discuss.

# WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL RULES (2027)
## REVIEWED AND APPLICABLE FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2026.

### 5. Festival Days
Timetable: The timetable, adjudicator, venues and running order for specific classes are subject to confirmation once all entries have been received. Classes may be divided, combined and/or cancelled at any time. If necessary, classes may be changed to virtual/online, meaning that video submissions will be required by the advertised deadline. In the event of the cancellation of a class, any fees paid will be returned.
Equipment: If required, performers must provide their own sheet music (including a copy for the adjudicator and/or accompanist, where specified.) Relying solely on digital screens/devices is discouraged.
Photography & Video: Strictly prohibited during all performances and adjudications, except for the official WCAF photographers, who will wear uniform and be clearly identifiable.
Food & Drink: No eating or drinking in performance spaces (water bottles are allowed).

### 6. Performance Guidelines
Choice of Pieces: In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE piece should be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one or more pieces may be performed within the time limit for the class.
Timing of Pieces: Please see the information for each section/class for time limits and number of pieces permitted. Time limits include all introductions and/or pauses. Exceeding time limits or performing in the wrong genre in competitive classes may result in no placement nor ranking and only feedback being given. Please check the requirements of each class carefully.
Introductions: Performers should introduce their piece(s) at the beginning of their performance.
Adjudicator Copies: Please see the information for each section/class about whether copies for the adjudicator are required.
Accompaniment: Musical performances may use a live accompanist or backing tracks, they may be self-accompanied, totally unaccompanied or a mixture of these. The performer's choice should be stated upon entry and if not, updated by 16th January at the latest. If used, backing tracks must be uploaded by 16th January 2027 and must not include the solo line being performed. Official festival accompanists may be requested during registration and WCAF will contact performers directly to make arrangements and fees, where this is possible.
Costumes & Props: Costumes and props are not permitted in classes on the Music day, including the singing classes. Please see the information for each section/class for elements permitted on the Musical Theatre and Poetry, Prose & Drama days.

### 7. Strong language and adult content
WCAF is a family-friendly festival. We want everyone to enjoy their experience and feel safe. We recognize that some pieces explore adult themes and contain strong language and we don't want to 'censor' entries, but please choose age-appropriate pieces and avoid unnecessary strong language or offensive content. This includes anything that may cause offence regarding protected characteristics (such as race, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or religious beliefs).
Full details of the piece(s) to be performed (including the name of the piece and the composer/author) are requested, but do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC or similar). However, all entries must be updated and all entry information must be fully complete ahead of the festival so that you can flag any adult themes, strong language, or sensitive topics. If flagged, this doesn't necessarily mean you won't be able to perform your piece. We will ask for a copy to review with you before the day and may suggest minor script changes or add an audience warning so that everyone gets to make an informed choice about whether to watch.
We reserve the right to reject entries with continuous profanity or discriminatory language.

### 8. Admission & Spectators
Free Admission: Competitors, accompanists, conductors and teachers who have entered groups or multiple performers are admitted free of charge.
Spectator Entry: Spectator tickets and festival programmes are available online: https://www.wcaf.org.uk/tickets or 'on the door' each day. Pre-order and multi-session discounts are only available online, in advance.
Accessibility: Special access or parking needs should be notified at least one week in advance to admin@wcaf.org.uk

### 9. The WCAF Organising Committee reserves the right to:
Change entry and/or spectator ticket prices;
Offer and withdraw discounts or free entry offers;
Change any class to a virtual class, meaning that video submissions will be required by the advertised deadline;
Cancel any class and return the fee;
Divide and/or combine classes;
Change the order of individual performers in a class and if necessary, the class itself; and
Make any changes necessary to the festival to accommodate any current government guidance.