



WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

JAZZ SYLLABUS



EXCITING COMPETITIVE
AND NON-COMPETITIVE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLO
& ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE





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JAZZ Syllabus

These classes are intended to take place on Saturday 7th March 2026 (subject to confirmation once all entries have been received). Unless otherwise stated, these classes are competitive and places will be awarded. The committee reserve the right to combine and/or separate classes dependent upon the number of entries. If there are enough solo entries, we will split the classes into separate instruments/voice.

All large ensembles are free of charge and 25% 'early bird' discount is available until 1st December 2025. 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

Categories in the jazz section this year:

Jazz solo

Jazz ensemble

Non-competitive jazz solo

Non-competitive jazz ensemble

Performers should introduce their piece(s) at the beginning of their performance. Timings should include introduction and any breaks between pieces. A copy of all pieces must be provided for the adjudicator. A formal score might not always be appropriate, but a chord tab or crib sheet for each piece should be provided for the adjudicator instead, clearly indicating the title and composer.

Full details of the piece(s) to be performed do not have to be included at the time of entry (simply put TBC) but please ensure entries are updated with the name and composer of the piece by 16th January 2026 at the latest.

Jazz Solo

Solo performers may enter only the class most appropriate for their playing standard and the open class for each instrument in each competitive section. However, performers may make further entries to the same class if playing more than one instrument and may enter non-competitive classes in addition. Different piece(s) must be played or performed for each entry in the Jazz section.

In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE piece of the performer's choice is to be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, one OR two pieces of the performer's choice may be performed within the time limit for the class.

In addition, performers may also wish to enter the following special classes:

- Performers who are Grade 6 standard or above AND were aged 12 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Marian Baker Memorial Prize and Cup class.
- Performers who also love speech and drama and were aged 15 years or under on 1st September 2025 may also wish to enter the Sproule Prize & Trophy for Speech, Drama and Music.
- Performers of any age who are grade 6 standard or above may also wish to enter the William Lewis Recital Prize and Salver class.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PIECES PERFORMED IN THE JAZZ SECTION MAY ALSO BE PLAYED IN THE ABOVE SPECIAL CLASSES

Performances may be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is always preferred. If you choose to use a backing track rather than a live accompanist, the backing track must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
500 NOVICE JAZZ SOLO (Up to approx. grade 1)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
501 BEGINNER JAZZ SOLO (Approx. grade 1-3)	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
502 INTERMEDIATE JAZZ SOLO (Approx. grade 4-5)	Any	Up to 4 mins	£10.67
503 ADVANCED JAZZ SOLO (Approx. grade 6-8)	Any	Up to 6 mins	£13.33
504 OPEN CLASS FOR JAZZ SOLO	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00

Jazz Ensembles

ENTRY FOR ENSEMBLES IS FREE OF CHARGE IF ENTERED BEFORE 1st DECEMBER

Jazz ensembles may be made up of any combination of instruments and/or voice(s). Up to 2 contrasting pieces should be performed within the time limit for the class (including the introduction and breaks within pieces). Different pieces must be played or performed for each entry.

The age ranges for groups/ensembles align with school years. The ages are also included but please be aware this refers to the age of the individual on 1st September 2025. Please ensure that the age of the eldest performer on 1st September 2025 is given in all except open adult classes. This will enable classes to be split fairly if there are too many entries. Conductors of any age are permitted. Ensembles entering the open adult classes may include performers under the age of 18, but the majority of performers must be over 18. Ensembles may also wish to enter the small or large ensemble classes found in the general classes section.

Individual performers may perform as part of more than one ensemble. However, ensembles made up of exactly the same performers may enter only one class appropriate for the age of the eldest performer and/or the open class in this section.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and 'live' accompaniment is always preferred. If you choose to use a backing track rather than a live accompanist, the backing track must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Any backing track must not contain the instruments to be played as part of the ensemble. Please note the additional information as you make the entry.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
505 JAZZ ENSEMBLE - School year 9 and under Award: 29 WCAF Cup Group of any size	13 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
506 JAZZ ENSEMBLE - School year 11 and under Award: 104 David Stanley Cup Group of any size	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
507 JAZZ ENSEMBLE - School year 13 and under Group of any size	17 and under	Up to 6 mins	£0.00 per group
508 JAZZ ENSEMBLE - Open Group of any size	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group
509 JAZZ ENSEMBLE - Open adult Group of any size	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group

Non-competitive Jazz Performance

These are non-competitive classes for all abilities, where constructive comments on the performances will be given by the adjudicator, but no places awarded or comparison made between performances. Performers may play one or more piece(s) within the time limit for the class. Please note that the ages for the classes below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2025.

Performances in these classes may be accompanied and if so, 'live' accompaniment is preferred. However, if you use a backing track this must be uploaded to PlayandPerform by 23:45 on 16th January 2026. Please note the additional information as you make the entry. Performers may play one or more piece(s) within the time limit for the class.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
510 NON-COMPETITIVE JAZZ SOLO - Open	Any	Up to 8 mins	£16.00
511 NON-COMPETITIVE JAZZ ENSEMBLE - Open Group of any size	Any	Up to 8 mins	£0.00 per group