

CHESTER FESTIVAL *of* PERFORMING ARTS



*Registered Charity No. 1103517
Affiliated to Making Music*

MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026
Saturday, 2nd May
Sunday, 3rd May

SYLLABUS

Closing Date For All Entries
14th March, 2026



**SUPPORTING &
CHAMPIONING
VOLUNTARY MUSIC**

MUSIC FESTIVAL

President: Lady Rose Cholmondeley

Vice-President: Mrs Susan Fisher

Officers and Committee

Chairman: Mrs Diane Rooney

Vice-Chairman: Mrs Wendy Morris

Treasurer: Mrs Lynn Moyes

Secretary: Mr Philip Moyes

Adjudicator Liaison: Mr Jon Banks

IT Executive: Mr Simon Bate

Mrs Christine Faithfull

Section Secretaries

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MR S BATE

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<https://chesterperformingarts.org.uk>

**Chester Festival of Performing Arts would like to thank
the Woodcraft Association
for their continued support of the festival.**

CHESTER FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

In order to encourage more people to join us, we decided to drop the word 'Competitive' from the festival's original title. However, we have continued to foster a spirit of healthy competition for those who still do wish to compete. The new non-competitive classes were well-received in 2025 by a number of regular attendees and by new performers and we look forward to welcoming many more again this time.

CLASSES NEW AND OLD

In addition to the non-competitive classes, we still offer many others that are tried-and-tested or have been adjusted. For young pianists and singers there's a short recital option alongside the flagship open recital classes. These could be of particular interest to students preparing an A-Level programme or similar. Other offerings include a musical theatre class for choirs and a class for singers of early music. We hope you agree that there's something for everyone!

VENUES & DATES

Our biggest change for 2026 is the decision to hold the music festival over a single weekend and at two main venues:

Saturday 2nd May

Queen's School: Choral

St John's Church: Vocal*

Sunday 3rd May

Queen's School: Piano and All Instrumental

These venues offer easy access to shops, eateries and other attractions of Chester. We hope that participants and their supporters will make a day of it.

** In the event of a large number of entries, other city centre venues will be made available.*

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **ENTRY FORMS:** Can be downloaded from the website. Entries can also be made online at <https://chesterperformingarts.org.uk>
2. **FEES:** To be paid in UK currency (BACS only) and are **non-refundable**.
3. **CAR PARKING:** City centre car parks are close by.
4. **REFRESHMENTS:** Available at the Queen's School, but also from many commercial outlets in the city centre.
5. **LOST PROPERTY** should be handed to one of the stewards at any venue.
6. **HEALTH & SAFETY; SECURITY:** Parents, carers and teachers are responsible for the supervision of children in their care and for any children's belongings. Adults are reminded that they are responsible for their own belongings and instruments. A copy of the festival's child protection policy is available upon request and can also be viewed on the day at venue box offices. Note should be taken of individual performance venue H&S guidelines and adhered to at all times.
7. **DATA PROTECTION:** Chester Festival of Performing Arts makes every effort to comply fully with **GDPR** and subscribes to equal opportunities.
8. **TROPHIES (Cups, Salvers and Shields):** Must be returned by 15 March of the succeeding year. They need to be adequately packed and cleaned before being sent back. Competitors who win trophies are asked to include them on their own home contents insurance in order to avoid personal liability in the event of loss, theft or damage; and for their return. None may be taken outside the British Isles. Following publication of the syllabus and where appropriate, the festival committee reserves the right to re-assign trophies for individual classes.
9. **MEDALS** will be awarded to winners of all junior solo and junior duo classes.

GENERAL RULES

- 1] **AGE LIMITS:** In classes where there is an age limit, the relevant date is the day of the competition. **OPEN:** Denotes no upper or lower age limit.
- 2] **ADJUDICATORS:** Adjudicator written comments will be given to all performers. The committee reserves the right to appoint adjudicators and, in general, to alter, modify, or **cancel any arrangements in the syllabus where deemed necessary.**
- 3] **OWN CHOICE MUSIC**
 - **A copy of the work** must be provided for the adjudicator.
 - **A time limit** is imposed in all Own Choice classes, which must be strictly adhered to.
 - **The composer and title** of each selected piece must be stated on the entry form in order to comply with Performing Rights Society legislation.
 - **Own Choice pieces** may not be changed once the programme has gone to print (usually 3-4 weeks before the festival date.)

4] **OFFICIAL ACCOMPANIST**

If an accompaniment is required, an unfolded copy of any Own Choice music must be sent to the respective section secretary.

NB: The official accompanist is **not available for Class 15 and 32 – 36.**

5] **CONDUCT OF INDIVIDUAL CLASSES**

- The adjudicators' decisions shall be final and they may stop a performance at any point.
- Performers or members of the audience must not approach the adjudicator during actual performance sessions.
- Vocal items must be sung in the key stated.
- No piece may be used in more than one class. However, a performer may make more than one entry in a single class playing different instruments.
- It is essential that performers comply with rules on copyright and photocopying, especially with regard to heavy volumes, as per the Code of Practice on copyright works. NB: There are no photocopying facilities available at any performance venue.
- No pre-recorded music may be used unless specific to each class. **Electrical equipment must be PAT-tested.**

IMPORTANT

In accordance with Performing Rights Society rules
the recording of any performance
be it by photograph, audio or video
[unless carried out by appointed officials]
is
STRICTLY FORBIDDEN

ADJUDICATORS

Daniel Chandler (Instrumental)

After graduating from the Royal College of Music, Daniel performed as a professional flautist in orchestras, chamber ensembles and as a soloist. He has a teaching degree from Edge Hill University and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Warwick. Daniel was assistant director of music at Merchant Taylors School in Crosby and then Director of Music at AKS Lytham. He has conducted choirs and other groups across the UK, plus further afield, including directing concerts in Westminster Abbey, Salzburg Cathedral, the United Nations and in St. Paul's Chapel, New York.

Daniel is currently assistant head of Bolton Music Service, the lead partner of the Greater Manchester Music Hub. He works with all sectors of the local community to increase access to quality music-making and to support music education. He is a professional mentor for PGCE students studying at the RNCM and Manchester Metropolitan University. He is also a trustee of Trust Music, a charity that generates funds to support music education and engagement for young people, particularly those who are experiencing significant barriers to accessing musical opportunities. Daniel continues to find time to perform, deliver workshops and adjudicate as a member of the BIFF.

Stephen Martin (Piano)

Stephen attended Thornleigh Salesian College in Bolton and then went on to study music at Huddersfield University. Following the completion of his PGCE at Bretton Hall he returned to his *alma mata* to teach music for three years before moving to Bolton School Boys' Division. He was the director of music for sixteen years in the Boys' Division and latterly took on the role of Director of Admissions.

Stephen has travelled extensively with his wife and three children and was responsible for setting up a new music school in the Sultanate of Oman. In more recent years he was the senior deputy headmaster at Sherborne School in Doha, Qatar and returned to the UK in 2016 when his eldest son went to university. Stephen is currently working as a freelance music teacher and is supporting the delivery of music in seven different schools around Bolton and Bury.

Louise Ellinson (Choral/Vocal)

Louise is an accomplished choral conductor, educator and soprano, with a career spanning professional, community and youth music-making across the UK. She is choral director at the University of Liverpool, where she directs the chamber choir and UNlty choir, leads outreach initiatives including Singtastic! with local schools, mentors aspiring conductors through her vocal leadership placement, and guest lectures on undergraduate conducting modules. She has worked extensively with the Hallé on their award-winning Corporate Choir programme, with Liverpool Philharmonic's Youth Company, directing their children's choir and Melody Makers and also working with the youth choir.

Louise is in demand as a workshop leader, adjudicator, guest tutor for schools and community choirs, for singing courses for children and adults. She is a tutor for Sing for Pleasure, delivering Foundation and Intermediate conducting courses and tutoring choral and conducting programmes at their annual summer school. She performs as a soprano soloist and for ensembles such as the Liverpool Welsh Choral, Orchestra dell'Arte, Liverpool Mozart Orchestra, Southport Orchestra, Liverpool Welsh Choral and the Liverpool Bach Collective. She is known for her dynamic, inclusive approach and passion for inspiring singers of all ages to develop confidence, skill and joy in choral music.

Susan Marrs (Vocal) Susan is a Graduate and Fellow of Trinity College of Music, London, and has worked extensively as a professional mezzo-soprano and choral conductor. During 15 years with The Royal Opera, Covent Garden and as a long-standing member of London Voices, Susan has enjoyed singing in concert halls all over the world – including venues in Berlin, Lucerne, Paris, New York, Shanghai and Beijing. Susan has also sung for English National Opera.

Susan has taught singing and vocal technique from basic to advanced level for 35 years and takes mainly senior students from Grade 6 to Diploma level. Occasionally she organises and leads vocal masterclasses; she owns and teaches through 'Singing Centre Nantwich'. All genres of music are taught, including opera, oratorio, art song (in languages such as French, German and Italian), and music theatre. Currently music director of 3 choirs: Nantwich Ladies Choir, Bunbury Community Choir and, most recently, The Nantwich Singers, Susan

encourages choral singing for every voice. She is also regularly deputises for the MD of Keele Bach Choir.

Richard Deering (Original Composition)

Richard studied piano with Frank Merrick and subsequently with Peter Wallfisch and Clifford Curzon. He has given piano recitals and broadcasts in over 90 countries and has made several commercial recordings – including an arrangement of the Beatles music as a piano concerto with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. Adjudicating and examining work has taken him throughout Britain and Europe and all parts of the world. As a teacher Richard has held positions at the London College of Music and Middlesex University as well as visiting positions at Trinity College of Music, Trinity College Dublin and Christ's College Cambridge.

The British Federation of Music Festivals Standard of Marking

Developing: 65 – 69 Progressive: 70 – 74 Merit: 75 – 79

Commended: 80 – 84 Honours: 85 – 89 Outstanding: 90 – 94

Exceptional: 95+

OFFICIAL ACCOMPANISTS

Catherine Barnett

Catherine graduated from the Royal Manchester College of Music (now the RNCM). Continuing her studies with Clifton Helliwell, she gained a distinction in accompaniment in her postgraduate year. She went on to work as a répétiteur in the Opera Department of the College and was awarded the Ricordi Prize for Opera. Her professional career has been mainly as an accompanist, but also as a piano teacher. Over the years, Catherine has worked with a wide variety of musicians in master classes, opera groups and choirs and with singers in many parts of the British Isles, including opera performances on the Isle of Skye. During the five years when she lived in Yorkshire, she was a rehearsal accompanist to the Huddersfield Choral Society, where she worked with several leading choral conductors. Catherine is in considerable demand in north Wales and the north west as a distinguished and experienced accompanist with a wide and varied repertoire.

Christopher Ellis

A former student of Chetham's School of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, Christopher studied with Simon Bottomley and Christopher Elton, and has performed at renowned venues including the Royal Festival Hall and Bridgewater Hall. Christopher has received recognition in prestigious competitions such as the Christopher Duke Memorial and International London Piano Competition where he was awarded a diploma for his performance of Prokofiev. He has performed many of the great Romantic piano concertos and recorded Rachmaninov's Fourth Concerto with Vassily Sinaisky and the Chetham's Symphony Orchestra. Christopher now enjoys a varied career as a teacher, accompanist and soloist, and works closely with several choral groups across the north-west.

PIANO & INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES (3rd May, Queen's School)

- Competitors are reminded that in Own Choice classes there is no minimum time but the maximum time limits of the class should include any presentation and must be strictly adhered to. The duration of their performance must be stated on the entry form.
- Medals will be awarded to winners of all junior solo or duo classes. Where there are insufficient entries in a class to justify a competition, the award/trophy may be moved to another class.
- If requesting the official accompanist, please send an unfolded copy of your music or a clear PDF to the instrumental secretary.

The following **non-competitive** classes provide a platform for performing your music and receiving helpful feedback without competing with others. Any style: Classical to jazz and popular. Any instrument. The classes could be a good opportunity for students to try out GCSE or A level performance.

Class NC1 Non-Competitive Piano or Instrumental Solo 12 years and under Own choice (Limit 5 minutes)	£7.00
Class NC2 Non-Competitive Piano or Instrumental Solo 16 years and under Own choice (Limit 5 minutes)	£7.00
Class NC3 Non-Competitive Piano or Instrumental Solo – Open Own choice (Limit 8 minutes)	£9.00
Class NC4 Non-Competitive Ensembles – Open Any combination of instruments (including voices) Own choice (Limit 8 minutes)	£12.00
Class 1 Piano Solo – up to Grade 3 <i>The Clifford Crozier Memorial Trophy and the Nial McCarthy Award of £20</i> Own Choice (Limit 4 minutes)	£9.00
Class 2 Piano Solo – Grades 4 – 5 <i>Betty Mackenzie Memorial Cup</i> Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)	£9.00
Class 3 Piano Solo – 12 years and under <i>David and Dorothy Bird Cup and Award of £20</i> Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)	£9.00
Class 4 Piano Solo – 14 years and under <i>Goharriz Trophy</i> Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)	£9.00
Class 5 Piano Solo – 16 years and under <i>John Gough Trophy and Lynn Moyes Award of £20</i> Own Choice (Limit 8 minutes)	£9.00
Class 6 Piano Duet – 16 years and under <i>Lila and Geoffrey Hallett Cup</i> Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)	£12.00

Class 7 Open Piano Duet **£12.00**

Amy Underhill Cup presented by Mrs E Sleeman

Own Choice (Limit 8 minutes)

Class 8 Piano Trio - 16 years and under – 6 hands at one piano **£12.00**

Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)

Class 9 Open Piano Trio – 6 hands at one piano **£12.00**

Own Choice (Limit 8 minutes)

**THERE WILL BE A PLAY-OFF FOR THE WALLASEY CUP WITH THE FLORENCE HALL AWARD
OF £50 BETWEEN THE WINNERS OF CLASSES 10 – 13**

Class 10 Open Piano Solo Baroque **£12.00**

Any work in the baroque style

Own Choice (Limit 8 minutes)

Class 11 Open Piano Solo Classical **£12.00**

Any work in the classical style

Own choice (Limit 8 minutes)

Class 12 Open Piano Solo Romantic **£12.00**

Any work in the romantic or French style composed
in the 19th or early 20th Century

Own choice (Limit 8 minutes)

Class 13 Open Piano Solo **£12.00**

A 20th or 21st Century work published in 1900 or later

Own choice (Limit 8 minutes)

Class 14 Junior Piano Recital Class – 18 years and under **£15.00**

The Elaine Sleeman (BEM) Trophy & Wynne Family Award of £20

Own choice (Limit 15 minutes)

This class is intended for competitors grade 6 and above and the programme should show some contrast in style and period. Presentation will be taken into account.

Class 15 Piano & Instrumental Recital Class – Open **£20.00**

Brenda Flanagan Award of £40

Own Choice (Limit 20 minutes)

This class is intended for competitors of **grade 8+** standard and the programme should show some contrast of style and period. Presentation and stage manner will also be taken into account. The award will only be made if the adjudicator considers that the standard demonstrated is high enough.

NB: The official accompanist is not available for Class 15.

**Outstanding performers from all sections of the festival will be invited to
perform at a number of concerts in Chester in the autumn which are
promoted by
MUSIC AT WESLEY.
Check for dates in the festival programme.**

ENSEMBLE CLASSES (can include piano)

NB: The official accompanist is not available for Classes 32-36.

Class 30 Instrumental Duo – 16 years and under **£12.00**

Daisy Riley Cup

Presented to competitors with the highest marks in Classes 30 & 32

Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes) One instrument may be piano. Both players to be adjudicated

Class 31 Instrumental Duo – Open **£12.00**

Lakewood Cup presented to competitors with the highest marks in Classes 31 & 33

Own Choice (Limit 8 minutes) One instrument may be piano

Both players to be adjudicated

Class 32 Instrumental Ensemble – 16 years and under **£1.00/member (min £12)**

Daisy Riley Cup presented to competitors with the highest marks in Classes 30 & 32

Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes) - accompaniment optional

Any combination of instruments, one may be piano: 3 to 15 players

Class 33 Instrumental Ensemble – Open **£1.00/member (min £12)**

Lakewood Cup Presented to competitors with the highest marks in Classes 31 & 33

Own Choice (Limit 8 minutes) - accompaniment optional

Any combination of instruments, one may be piano: 3 to 15 players.

Class 34 Percussion – Open **£12.00**

Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)

Any combination of instruments or players

Class 35 Drum Kit with Backing Track – Open **£12.00**

Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes) accompaniment optional

Any combination of instruments and or voices

Class 36 Family Ensemble – Open **£12.00**

Laine Cup

Own Choice (Limit 8 minutes)

Two or more members of the same family

Any combination of instruments and/or voices

SOLO STRING CLASSES

Class 41 Solo String – up to Grade 3 **£9.00**

Own Choice (Limit 4 minutes)

Class 42 Solo String – Grades 4 & 5 **£9.00**

Lila & Geoffrey Hallett Award of £20

Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)

Class 43 Solo String – 14 years and under **£9.00**

Moyes Trophy

Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)

Class 44 Solo String – 16 years and under **£9.00**

Lila & Geoffrey Hallett Award of £20

Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)

BRASS CLASSES

Class 45 Solo Brass – up to Grade 3	£9.00
Own Choice (Limit 4 minutes)	
Class 46 Solo Brass – Grades 4 & 5	£9.00
<i>Daisy Riley Award of £20</i>	
Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)	
Class 47 Solo Brass – 14 years and under	£9.00
<i>City of Chester Band Trophy</i>	
Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)	
Class 48 Solo Brass – 16 years and under	£9.00
<i>David & Alison Moyes Award of £20</i>	
Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)	

HARP CLASSES

Class 49 Solo Harp – 16 years and under	£9.00
<i>Gary Holmes Trophy</i>	
Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)	
Class 50 Solo Harp – Open	£12.00
Own Choice (Limit 8 minutes)	

GUITAR CLASSES

Classes may have the official accompanist or a backing track.

Class 51 Solo Classical Guitar – Open	£12.00
<i>Bookland Music Trophy</i>	
Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)	
Class 52 Solo Electric Guitar – Open	£12.00
<i>Festival Award of £10</i>	
Own Choice (Limit 8 minutes)	

WOODWIND CLASSES

Class 53 Solo Woodwind – up to Grade 3	£9.00
Own Choice (Limit 3 minutes)	
Class 54 Solo Woodwind – Grade 4 & 5	£9.00
<i>Festival Award of £10</i>	
Own Choice (Limit 4 minutes)	
Class 55 Solo Woodwind – 14 years and under	£9.00
<i>Eleanor McCarthy Award of £20</i>	
Own Choice (Limit 3 minutes)	
Class 56 Solo Woodwind – 16 and under	£9.00
<i>Michelle Moyes Award of £20</i>	
Own Choice (Limit 5 minutes)	

OPEN INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES

Open to **any** instrument except piano and voice.

Transcription of pieces to suit the instrument is allowed, provided that it is in keeping with the style of the piece.

THERE WILL BE A PLAY-OFF FOR THE RUSHWORTH ROSE BOWL AND MARY LEES AWARD OF £50 BETWEEN THE WINNERS OF CLASSES 63-67

Class 63 Open Instrumental Solo	£12.00
Any work in the Baroque style (Limit 8 minutes)	
Class 64 Open Instrumental Solo	£12.00
Any work in the Classical style (Limit 8 minutes)	
Class 65 Open Instrumental Solo	£12.00
Any work in the Romantic or French style composed in the 19 th and early 20 th Century (Limit 8 minutes)	
Class 66 Open Instrumental Solo	£12.00
Any 20 th or 21 st Century work published after 1900 (Limit 8 minutes)	
Class 67 Open Instrumental Solo	£12.00
Any unaccompanied work (Limit 5 minutes)	
Class 68 Junior Instrumental Recital Class – 18 years and under	£15.00
<i>Philip Moyes Challenge Trophy and Award of £20</i>	
Own choice (Maximum Limit 15 minutes, no minimum time)	

This class is intended for competitors **grade 6 and above** and the programme should show some contrast in style and period. Presentation will be taken into account.

ORCHESTRAS & BANDS

The following non-competitive class provides a platform for performing and receiving adjudicator feedback without competing with other musicians. Any style: Classical to popular; any combination of instruments.

Class NC5 Bands/Orchestral Ensemble(s) – Open	£12.00
Own Choice (Limit 10 minutes)	

THE HILDA CATHERALL TROPHY AND FESTIVAL AWARD OF £50 WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNER OF CLASSES 70 – 71.

Class 70 Wind Band – Open	£1.00/member (min £12.00, max £38.00)
Own Choice (Limit 10 minutes)	
Class 71 Brass Band – Open	£1.00/member (min £12.00, max £38.00)
Own Choice (Limit 10 minutes)	

VOCAL CLASSES (2nd May, St John's Church)

- Vocal classes were re-numbered in 2025 in order to be consistent with the other sections of the festival. Most of what has been offered in previous years is still here!
- Non-competitive classes provide a platform for performing and receiving helpful feedback without competing with others. Any style: Classical, jazz, popular, etc.
- If you require the official accompanist, send Own Choice music with your entry.

Class NC6 Non-competitive Vocal Solo – 17 years and under **£7.00**

Own choice (limit 4 minutes)

Class NC7 Non-competitive Vocal Solo – Open **£9.00**

Own choice (limit 5 minutes)

Class 80 Vocal Solo – 11 years and under **£9.00**

J. Gilbert Curtis Memorial Cup

One or two songs, own choice (limit 4 minutes)

Class 81 Vocal Solo – 13 years and under **£9.00**

Music Society Silver Salver

One or two songs, own choice (limit 4 minutes)

Class 82 Vocal Solo – 15 years and under **£9.00**

Festival Award of £10

One or two songs, own choice (limit 5 minutes)

Class 83 Vocal Solo – 17 years and under **£9.00**

Olive Stoker Memorial Salver and Festival Award of £10

One or two songs, own choice (limit 5 minutes)

Class 84 Sacred Solo – 16 years and under **£9.00**

Chorister's Cup and Festival Award of £15

Two songs, of which:

- 1) any sacred genre, e.g. oratorio, cantata, sacred aria
 - 2) any 'classical' genre and period, excluding musical theatre
- (Limit 6 minutes)

Class 85 Unaccompanied Folk Song – 14 years and under **£9.00**

Festival Award of £10

One song from the folk traditions of Britain/Ireland/America or mainland Europe
(Limit 5 minutes)

**The LEVERHULME SILVER ROSE BOWL will be awarded to the competitor
with the highest mark in Classes 86 – 89**

Class 86 Vocal Solo – 17-26 years **£15.00**

Chester in Concert: Jackie Leech Trophy and Festival Prize of £30

Two or three art songs, of which at least one must be in English. The set should be of Grade 6 standard or above and show some contrast in style or mood.
(Limit 8 minutes)

*The winner of this class must achieve at least **87 marks** for the trophy and prize to be awarded.*

Class 87 Vocal Duet – 17 years and under	£12.00
<i>Jon & Barbara Banks Award of £10</i>	
Own choice (limit 5 minutes)	
Class 88 Vocal Duet – Open	£14.00
<i>Jon & Barbara Banks Award of £10</i>	
Own choice (limit 5 minutes)	
Class 89 Early Music – Open	£12.00
<i>Festival Award of £15</i>	
One or two songs in any language composed before c. 1750 (Limit 5 minutes)	
Class 90 Welsh Song – Open	£12.00
<i>Barlow Award of £15</i>	
To be sung in Welsh A brief English translation should be given with the music to the adjudicator. (Limit 5 minutes)	
Class 91 English Song, post-1900 – Open	£12.00
<i>Barlow Award of £15</i>	
Any English or American art song(s), written in English in the 20 th or 21 st Centuries (Limit 5 minutes)	
Class 92 French Song – Open	£12.00
<i>Upton-by-Chester & Arradon Twinning Cup and Barlow Award of £15</i>	
Any song(s) by a French composer of the 19 th or 20 th Centuries, to be sung in French (Limit 5 minutes)	
Class 93 Lieder – Open	£12.00
<i>Jon & Barbara Banks Award of £20</i>	
Any song(s) of the German Romantic period, from c.1790, to be sung in German (Limit 5 minutes)	
Class 94 Two Contrasting Songs – Open	£14.00
<i>Barlow Award of £30</i>	
Songs may be in any language and any vocal genre (Limit 8 minutes)	
Class 95 Oratorio – Open	£12.00
<i>Solloway Award of £20</i>	
Any solo aria from an oratorio, with or without recitative (Limit 6 minutes)	
Class 96 Opera – Open	£12.00
<i>David Lyons Salver and £30 Award</i>	
Any solo aria from an opera, with or without recitative. Singers are encouraged to consider 20 th Century opera when making their choice (Limit 6 minutes)	
Class 97 Light Opera/Musical Comedy – Open	£12.00
<i>Jon & Barbara Banks Award of £10</i>	
Own Choice (limit 5 minutes)	

Class 98 Unaccompanied Folk Song – Open **£12.00**

One song from the folk traditions of Britain/Ireland/America or mainland Europe
(Limit 5 minutes)

Class 99 Vocal Recital – Open **£20.00**

Walton Pritchard Memorial Cup and the Brenda Flanagan Award of £40

At least 3 songs to make up a group lasting not more than 12 minutes. The class is intended for singers of Grade 8 standard or above. The programme should show stylistic contrast; presentation and stage manner will also be taken into account. (Limit 12 minutes).

CHORAL CLASSES (2nd May, Queen's School)

- The total performance time limit is **10 minutes** for all classes.
- **Competitive classes** are for two contrasting pieces of own choice, but the repertoire must reflect the style of the particular category – this applies especially to musical theatre, gospel, close harmony and barbershop performances.
- **Non-competitive classes** receive feedback from the adjudicator on the overall performance (can be **one** or **more** pieces). Any style: Jazz, rock, swing, sacred, folk, opera choruses.

Entry fee for junior and youth classes: **£20.00** per choir, per entry.

Non-competitive: **£12**

The Chester Festival Prize of £50 will be awarded to the group with the highest mark in Classes 110 to 114

Class 110 Junior Choirs (Year 6 and under) – Junior Cup

Class 111 Junior Choirs (Year 7 to Year 10) – Junior Choristers Cup

Class 112 Youth Choirs (ages 16-18) – Senior School Choir Cup

Class 113 Ensembles (8-16 voices; up to age 18) – Yates Challenge Cup

Class 114 Musical Theatre/Show Songs (any formation; up to age 18) – Rita Landi Cup

Class NC8: Age up to 18 (any formation) – Adjudicator comments only

Entry fee for ADULT CHOIRS **£1 per person**, per class

(Minimum fee: **£15.00** – Maximum: **£38.00**).

Non-Competitive fee: **£12**

The Chester Music Society Choir Prize of £50 will be awarded to the group with the highest mark in Classes 116 to 120.

Class 116 Chamber Ensembles – Oriana Cup

Class 117 Larger Choruses/Community Choirs – Stamford Cup

Class 118 Gospel Singers – Festival Crystal Cup

Class 119 Close Harmony (trios, quartets, sextets or octets) – Ierston Cup

Class 120 Barbershop Choruses – Rushworth & Dreaper Cup

Class NC9 Open (any formation) – Adjudicator comments only

ORIGINAL COMPOSITION CLASSES (Date & Venue TBA)

The Barlow Cup will be awarded to the best overall composition.

Class 126	Age 16 and under (3 minutes max.)	£10.00 per composition
Class 127	Age 21 and under (5 minutes max.)	£15.00 per composition
Class 128	Open (8 minutes max.)	£20.00 per composition

Classes 126 and 127 may be a useful opportunity for GCSE submission pieces.

- Compositions must be the unaided work of the entrant.
- Pieces can be in any style, any number of instruments and/or voices; source of any words should be acknowledged. The class number and the title of each composition must be written on the manuscript and on the envelope. (Competitors wishing to submit more than one composition are asked to give each piece its own [clear] envelope within the parcel.)
- A separate envelope containing the entry form, composition-title(s) and SAE should be securely attached to each entry. Fees must be paid using BACS. Competitors will receive an adjudication and return of their works on or before 1 April 2026.
- Compositions may be sent to the original composition secretary from **30th November 2025 until 14th March 2026 (latest).**

***CFPA is grateful to the following patrons
who have kindly donated prizes and trophies***

<i>MUSIC AT WESLEY</i>	Anonymous Donators		<i>Chester in Concert</i>
David & Sheila Hall	Brenda Flanagan	Alan Lees	David & Dorothy Bird
Chester Music Society	The Hallett Family	The Wynne Family	Jon & Barbara Banks
David and Alison Moyes Michelle Moyes	Veronica Ierston	Jane & Malcolm Sheldon	



Outstanding performers from all sections of the festival will be invited to perform at a number of concerts in Chester in the autumn which are promoted by
MUSIC AT WESLEY.
Check for dates in the festival programme.

MUSIC AT WESLEY
TUESDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Wesley Church Centre, St John Street, Chester CH1 1DA

Weekly from September to July, at 12:45pm – 1:35pm
Retiring Collection

For performer and programme details, go to
www.wesleychester.co.uk

Chester Festival of Performing Arts
Special Lunchtime Concerts for Outstanding Performers



Visit Wesley's Café and Fair Trade Shop and ... enjoy the music!



Putting Music at the Heart of
Chester since 1946



CHESTER BACH SINGERS



Forthcoming events

December 13th Christmas concert

January 31st Will Todd workshop

March 14th Bach; Tallis Lamentations

May 16th Music by Todd, Chilcott

Vaughan Williams *et al*

CBS performs all styles of music from baroque to contemporary and its singing workshops provide the opportunity for amateurs of all ages to work with professional musicians and gifted composers. The choir is committed also to encouraging the musical development of youngsters through its *Young Singer Scheme*, so if you are a young person and interested in taking part, go to the website to find out more about the scheme. Alternatively, you can send an email to:

admin@chesterbachsingers.org.uk

Full details about **all voice-part** vacancies, events and online ticket sales can be found at:

<https://chesterbachsingers.org.uk>

Woodcraft Association



We are a small group of turners and carvers who meet in Hawarden at the Level Road Community Centre on Monday mornings.



Before



After

We offer premises, equipment, know-how, exchange of ideas, encouragement, help with problem-solving and usually some pieces of wood. Additionally we offer good humour, gentle criticism at a variety of levels when we get to know you, jokes and occasionally cakes. Our members come from Gresford, Chester, Ellesmere Port, Mold and all points in between. If you are interested please give us a call. New members are always welcome and no experience is necessary.

Contacts:

Phil Moyes: 01352 753844

Dave Bebbington: 01978 364687

John Cowley: 01244 336666

www.woodcraftassociation.org.uk

We support a number of schools and charities and 1/3 of all monies taken goes to the organisation on the day, in this case, the Chester Festival of Performing Arts.

Chester Festival of Performing Arts

Music Festival, 2nd & 3rd May, 2026



VENUES

Queen's School, City Walls Rd, CH1 2NN

St John the Baptist Church, CH1 1QX

Chester Festival of Performing Arts has existed for 90+ years and the two festivals (speech & drama; music) attract many performers every year. For their continued success these events depend entirely on: the commitment, time and effort of its volunteers, the generosity of donors, performer entry fees and box office takings. All contributions, whether in kind or to help keep the organisation financially viable, are most gratefully received. If you would like to volunteer or donate, please contact a member of the committee. To make a donation send an email to Honorary Treasurer Lynn Moyes (contact details on the inside cover page).

Chester Festival of Performing Arts is listed with

**Cheshire West
Voluntary Arts Network**

Open  Concerts and Recitals

<https://www.open-concerts.co.uk>