

MILTON KEYNES FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS FOR DANCE, MUSIC AND DRAMA

Music and Speech and Drama Syllabus Festival 2025



All entries must be received by 31 December 2024

Online entry via www.miltonkeynesfestival.org

Sponsored by
Kawai Pianos UK

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THE FUTURE OF THE PIANO

A group of students in school uniforms are performing on stage. A girl in the center is singing into a microphone, surrounded by other students who are cheering and holding up glowing pink light sticks. The scene is lit with stage lights.

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MILTON KEYNES FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

for Dance, Music and Drama



Registered charity number 293601
Affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals

Welcome to our 2025 Festival – our 57th year

Our 2024 festival was our 56th annual festival event and we were thrilled to have a wonderful number of performers taking part and feedback from adjudicators, parents, teachers and performers was very positive as always.

Following our soloists' weekend seven of our talented music festival performers were invited back to take part in our virtual Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year showcase and we were delighted to welcome Nadia Hinson and concert pianist / teacher Craig Greene to provide constructive feedback. The winner was chosen as pianist Waika Hagan Chu who played a most impressive performance of the Chopin Nocturne Op 15 No 1 and Piazzolla – Suite para Piano Op 2 with Reeka Chanelle Manglicmot - piano and violin in second place and violinist Sean Lau in third place.

The other highly accomplished finalists were Matias Yung - piano and cello, Mason Huo - piano, Evie Cooper - violin and Yiding Wang - piano. Fabulous guest performances by Milton Keynes Young Singer of the Year 2024 Hope Dionisio-Sagau and adult festival entrant, pianist Vicky Letsman added an extra level of entertainment to the event, which was hosted by Festival Vice-President Mr Adrian Boynton. All recitalists took away a certificate, special trophy and a small amount of prize money as a memento of their special showcase.

We are so privileged to have the continued sponsorship by Kawai Pianos who donate several of their beautiful concert grand and upright pianos to our music festival for our performers' use and we are grateful to Neil and Tom for their generous support and for also agreeing to extend their patronage to the Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year competition. Without their ongoing support the festival would not be able to accept as many piano entrants as we do (almost 500 performances in 2024) so we are ever grateful for their kindness and generosity and to their Milton Keynes retail partner, Bonners Music.

Thanks must also go to the army of friendly and hard-working volunteer stewards, without whom the festival would not happen and it was fantastic to all meet up again at the 2024 festival.

Please help our festival to grow by telling colleagues and friends about it. Junior performers do not necessarily have to be entered by a school or teacher as parents may send in the entry form on their behalf, and we warmly welcome new entrants of all ages and levels of experience from all over the country, not just Milton Keynes. In addition, we would love to see more schools taking part in orchestral, choirs and ensembles sections.

We hope that you will support the festival in the enthusiastic way you always do. We are completely self-funding and fully reliant on audience support to remain sustainable. Do reach out to any of the contacts in this syllabus if you require more information.

As many of you know, the 2024 festival was my last event as organiser and I would like to thank everyone who gave me their good wishes, cards and gifts. I am thrilled to introduce the team of 5 new organisers who will be delivering the 2025 event and whose photos you can see below. I know that they will uphold all the aims of Milton Keynes Festival and I am thoroughly optimistic for the festival's future. If you are interested in helping during the festival do let us know on hello@miltonkeynesfestival.org. Our website is also a good source of information as is our Facebook page. We look forward to receiving your entries and enjoying your performances.

Best wishes from Pat Haig, outgoing festival organiser and the new team

WELCOME YOUR NEW MUSIC AND DRAMA FESTIVAL TEAM



Left to right: Gina Sharp (festival admin and reception), Isabel de Abreu (singing, speech and drama and Orchestras, Choirs and Barbershop Day), Michelle Okowa (multi-section support and catering), Adrian Ho (piano) and Mike Guy (instrumental and Young Musician)

You can contact any member of the team by emailing hello@miltonkeynesfestival.org

THREE WAYS TO ENTER THE FESTIVAL

- Important:** If you put an email address on your entry form, you will not receive any entry tickets or details by post, only by email, which is quicker and easier, so do check your email inbox and junk folder regularly. You can enter the festival in any of these ways:
- Online:** Go to our website, **www.miltonkeynesfestival.org** and register online, enter all performers' names and their classes using our online system and then pay the stated amount by PayPal, which confirms your entry. Using this method, you can amend your entries, check your entries and receive all your performance times by email. If you entered online last year you will only need to enter your new pupils.
- By Post:** You can complete the entry form enclosed and post it to the address on the form along with a cheque or you can pay by BACS. Please provide an email address, as you will receive all your performance times by email. Please keep a copy of completed form(s) for your own records if entering by post.
- Email:** You can send your form by email, but if you do so, you must pay your entry free immediately by BACS as entries will not be inputted to the system until we have confirmation of payment.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

- Paypal:** Via the online system.
- Cheque:** Made payable to "Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts" and posted to Mrs Isabel Sousa, 11 Flavius Gardens MK11 4BG / hello@miltonkeynesfestival.org
- BACS:** If you are entering via email or post you can pay via online banking to the following account: Account name: Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts Sort code:40-52-40 Account number: 00019081. Please use your name as the payment reference and make one payment to cover the full amount on your entry form.

OTHER ENTRY INFORMATION

Which grade to enter (music only): Performers / parents / teachers are responsible for ensuring the correct grade has been selected when entering a music festival class. (eg if you are a grade 4 performer but playing a grade 5 piece then you should enter the appropriate class for grade 5).

Which age group to enter: Where a class is divided according to age, please ensure that the age group chosen is in accordance with the entrant's age on 1 February 2025

New Classes for 2025

Piano:

Class P18	Guest Composer: Ludovico Einaudi - Just for 2025
Class P19	Guest Composer: Erik Satie - Just for 2025
P3: Set piece	<i>Apple Pie Waltz</i> from Upgrade 0-1 by Pam Wedgewood

Voice:

V2: Set Pieces for Voice – thank you to Cheryl Hawkins for setting these beautiful songs		
2A	10 years and under	<i>The Path to the Moon</i> by Thiman
2B	11-14 years	<i>Over the Rainbow</i> by Arlen
2C	15-18 years	<i>I Attempt from Love's Sickness to Fly</i> by Purcell
2D	Adult:	<i>It Was a Lover and His Lass</i> by Finzi
V32 and V37:	Just for 2025 – Bizet and Rutter own choice – All ages	
Class V36D	Foreign Song of Indian origin for adults aged 19 and over	

2025 Festival Dates, Venues and Adjudicators

Drama Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 February at The Venue, Walton High	Rebecca Thompson Rosalind Taylor						
Music Soloists and Small Ensembles Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 March at The Venue, Walton High	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Piano:</td> <td>Gill Johnston Joseph Tong Anthony Williams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Instrumental:</td> <td>Jonathan Rea</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Voice:</td> <td>Belinda Mikhail Jane Wilkinson</td> </tr> </table>	Piano:	Gill Johnston Joseph Tong Anthony Williams	Instrumental:	Jonathan Rea	Voice:	Belinda Mikhail Jane Wilkinson
Piano:	Gill Johnston Joseph Tong Anthony Williams						
Instrumental:	Jonathan Rea						
Voice:	Belinda Mikhail Jane Wilkinson						
Ensembles, Community Choirs & Barbershop Saturday 15 March at The Venue, Walton High	Gill Johnston						
Dance Saturday 15 – Saturday 22 February and Saturday 1 - Sunday 2 March 2025	Tbc						

The festival programme is compiled over the Christmas and New Year Holiday period.
 Entries made or unpaid after 31 December will not be accepted.
 There is lots more information on our website:
www.miltonkeynesfestival.org

SPEECH AND DRAMA SECTION



Speech and Drama adjudicator: Rosalind Taylor
BEd (Hons), LRWCMD (Dist), Laban Diploma (Dist), Cert Ed (Dist), LLAM (Dist)

Rosalind trained at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and at The Laban Centre of Movement and Dance, London.

Rosalind has taught speech and drama for over thirty years and has led several large Performing Arts departments. She continues to deliver workshops at leading vocational schools and universities, both in the United Kingdom and internationally. In addition to her teaching credits,

Rosalind has extensive experience in directing and creating original devised material for vocational and community outreach projects.

Rosalind has spent over twenty years working alongside award-winning choreographers with the National Youth Ballet of Great Britain – on their Creative Team, as drama coach and repetiteur.

She continues to support their Beyond Ballet initiative for new and aspiring young choreographers, Rosalind is an adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals, and a Senior Examiner and Team Leader for The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Through her work Rosalind has travelled extensively leading directorial, voice and LAMDA workshops in China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bahrain, Australia, Sri Lanka, East Africa, California and throughout Europe.



Speech and Drama adjudicator: Rebecca Thompson
BA (Hons), LLAM (Hons)

On graduating from Bristol University with a degree in Drama and English, Rebecca worked for BBC Radio Four's Drama Department. After further journalism and corporate work, Rebecca studied for her Licentiate Teacher's Diploma and has been teaching Speech and Drama privately and in schools for over 25 years.

Additionally, a voice and presentation skills coach in the region, she teaches in private and state schools, colleges and businesses and is a

facilitator for Speaking and Listening Courses in the South Gloucestershire region; in addition, she facilitates communication training in schools across the country.

Rebecca has been actively involved in theatre in the Southwest and is an Adjudicator for the Rose Bowl Awards for Amateur Drama and Music; she also continues to direct plays with young people.

Rebecca is passionate about developing communication skills amongst people of all ages and abilities; she sees the festival movement as an excellent way of achieving this goal. Rebecca has adapted her teaching methods during recent months and is very happy to adjudicate in person or online.

We look forward to welcoming Rebecca and Rosalind to our 2025 festival.

THANK YOU TO OUR FESTIVAL SPONSORS

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Facebook @KawaiUK

New Marking Categories

- Every performance will receive a certificate and written feedback, and medals are awarded for first, second and third place, with cups or prizes awarded where designated.
- The categories awarded will be in accordance with the standards laid down by the British and International Federation of Festivals will now be as follows:

95+ Exceptional	A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic individuality.
90 - 94 Outstanding	An impressive performance technically and artistically, displaying spontaneity and clear individuality.
85 - 89 Honours	An excellent performance, demonstrating fluent technical and artistic skills with emerging individuality.
80 - 84 Commended	A convincing performance technically and artistically, with increasing stylistic and communication skills.
75 - 79 Merit	A competent performance showing some artistic awareness and/or technical ability.
70 - 74 Progressing	A performance showing development of technique and/or communication and commitment.
65 - 69 Developing	A performance demonstrating an awareness of technical skills, requiring more consistency and artistry.

SOLOS AND DUOLOGUES – ALL AGES

Every performance will receive a certificate and written feedback, and medals are awarded for first, second and third place.

All entries must be spoken from memory, except for Prepared Reading, Sight Reading and Talk classes.

Poetry

Solo Verse – Choose a poem of your own choice to recite:

1	7 & under	1½ mins	£6
2	8 & 9 years	1½ mins	£6
3	10 & 11 years	2 mins	£7
4	12 & 13 years	2 mins	£7
5	14 & 15 years	2 mins	£7
6	16 and over	2 mins	£7

Humorous Verse – Choose a poem of your own choice to recite:

83	7 & under	1½ mins	£6
84	8 & 9 years	1½ mins	£6
85	10 & 11 years	2 mins	£7
86	12 & 13 years	2 mins	£7
87	14 & 15 years	2 mins	£7
88	16 & over	2 mins	£7

Write and Recite Your Own Poem

An opportunity to write a poem on any subject and then recite it to the audience.

Please email your poem to hello@miltonkeynesfestival.org by 10 January 2025 so that it can be sent to the adjudicator before the festival.

64	7 – 9 years	2 mins	£6
65	10 & 11 years	2 mins	£6
66	12 & 13 years	3 mins	£7
67	14 & 15 years	3 mins	£7
68	16 and over	4 mins	£7

Memorised Verse or Prose for Two Speakers

Choose a poem or prose passage of your choice. Does not need to be spoken in unison.

46	11 and under	4 mins	£6
47	12 and above	5 mins	£6

Prose and Prepared Reading

Spoken Prose – Spoken from memory, not read from the book. Choose a passage according to your age below:

8	7-9 years	Any book by Jill Murphy or Vivian French	1½ mins	£6
9	10-11 years	Any book by Tom Fletcher or Megan Rix	2 mins	£7
10	12-13 years	Own choice	2 mins	£7
11	14-15 years	Own choice	2½ mins	£7
12	16 & over	Own choice	3 mins	£7

Prepared Reading – Please read from an actual copy of the book, not a device such as a Kindle or phone. Choose any passage as follows.

14	7-9 years	Any book by Gill Lewis or Philip Reeve	1½ mins	£6
15	10-11 years	Any book by Philip Pullman	2 mins	£7
16	12-13 years	Any book by Michael Morpurgo	2 mins	£7
17	14-15 years	Any book by Charles Dickens or Kazuo Ishiguro	2½ mins	£7
18	16 & over	Own choice	3 mins	£7

Sight Reading

Passage to be chosen by the adjudicator.

20	9 & under	£5
21	10 & 11 years	£5
22	12 & 13 years	£5
23	14 & 15 years	£5
24	16 & over	£5

English as a Second Language - Prepared Reading - Non-competitive

For those whose normal spoken language is not English, this is an opportunity to read in front of an encouraging audience and receive feedback and a certificate. Choose a passage from a book of your choice.

30	All ages	3 mins	£6
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Non-competitive Speech and Drama class

Own choice. Poetry, drama, prepared reading. Each entrant will receive a full adjudication, certificate and written feedback but no placing. A great way to showcase your talents in a non-competitive setting.

90	All ages	3 mins	£6
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Drama Solos, Duologues and Public Speaking

Solo Drama Own choice – simple costuming and minimal props acceptable. Choose a passage from a drama piece to enact.

35	9 & under	3 mins	£6
36	10 & 11 years	3 mins	£6
37	12 & 13 years	4 mins	£7
38	14 & 15 years	4 mins	£7
39	16 and over	5 mins	£7

Dramatic Duologue Own choice - simple costuming and minimal props acceptable

41	9 & under	4 mins	£10
42	10 & 11 years	4 mins	£10
43	12 & 13 years	5 mins	£10
44	14 & 15 years	5 mins	£10
45	16 and over	5 mins	£10

Shakespeare Monologue

Your choice of monologue from any play. Simple costuming and minimal props acceptable where appropriate.

69	12 year and over	5 mins	£6
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Talk, with or without Visual Aids

Prepare and present a talk on a subject of your own choice. No PowerPoint presentations or use of other devices please.

74	9 & under	3 mins	£6
75	10 & 11 years	3 mins	£6
76	12 & 13 years	3 mins	£6
77	14 & 15 years	3 mins	£6
78	16 & over	3 mins	£6

GROUP DRAMA

- *Costumes, sound effects and music may be introduced at the teacher's discretion.*
- *As the audiences for these classes may contain very young children, we ask that the use of language and appropriate themes be carefully considered.*

Creative Dramatic Performance

Festival trophy for each class

- Own choice. 3 or more characters – time limit to include setting and striking. These classes are designed to enable teachers and students to develop imaginative and structured dramatic scenes with the purpose of communicating original ideas and responses.

57	11 and under	5 mins	£15
58	12 – 14 years	8 mins	£20
59	15 and over	10 mins	£25

Dramatic Scene from a Published Play

Festival trophy for each class

- Own choice from a published play. 3 or more characters.
- Time limit to include setting and striking.
- Costumes, props, sound effects and music acceptable where appropriate.

60	11 & under	5 mins	£15
61	12 – 14 years	8 mins	£20
62	Open	10 mins	£25

FESTIVAL SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

www.miltonkeynesfestival.org
www.kawai.co.uk www.bonnersmusic.co.uk



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MUSIC SECTION

Please also read the rules and information at the back of this syllabus

- **A piece must not be repeated across the classes (including your recital).**
- Only one grade per instrument may be entered in all graded classes, and entrants / parents / teachers are responsible for ensuring the correct grade has been selected.
- If you play a piece recognised by the adjudicator to be above the stated level you may not be placed.
- Standards are indicated either by age, grade, or by experience in tuition. Where a class is divided into grades, the entrant should be able to play to that standard, but not yet have passed a higher grade than that specified. The piece played must reflect the standard entered, ie a piece set for a grade 5 exam should not be played in an Elementary class, it should be played in an Intermediate class.

Standards for entry for Piano and Instrumental classes

Early Beginners	EB	Not yet playing hands together except for last chord. (class P16)
Beginners	B	Of Prep Test standard or moving toward this grade. (class P13)
Preparatory	P	Grades I and II
Elementary	E	Grades III and IV
Intermediate	I	Grades V and VI
Advanced	A	Grade VII and VIII
Diploma	D	Passed Grade VIII more than one year ago or if you are playing a piece above Grade VIII standard

New Marking Categories

- Every performance will receive a certificate and written feedback, and medals are awarded for first, second and third place, with cups or prizes awarded where designated.
- The categories awarded will be in accordance with the standards laid down by the British and International Federation of Festivals as follows:

95+ Exceptional	A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic individuality.
90 - 94 Outstanding	An impressive performance technically and artistically, displaying spontaneity and clear individuality.
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65 - 69 Developing	A performance demonstrating an awareness of technical skills, requiring more consistency and artistry.

Non-competitive classes

These are for those solo performers who do not wish to compete, but would enjoy performing to an audience, receiving feedback from the adjudicator and a certificate. The only difference is that the performers will not compete with one another and will not be eligible for a cup/prize.

Accompanists

See www.miltonkeynesfestival.org for a list of pianists or you may use your own. The festival does not have official accompanists, so if you need an accompanist, please make sure you make necessary arrangements for a rehearsal and your performance as soon as you have confirmed your entry.

You must expect to pay a fee to your pianist / accompanist for your festival performance and any rehearsals you arrange. Please deal direct with your pianist / accompanist and agree all fees and any rehearsal dates with him / her. If you are unable to attend your festival class, do make sure you inform your accompanist, or you may still be charged with the agreed fee.

Backing Track Accompaniment for Instrumental Classes

To assist parents and teachers with the cost of entering the festival, instrumental (not voice or piano) performers in classes for grades Beginners, Preparatory and Elementary (grades up to and including grade 4) may choose to use a backing track accompaniment if they wish instead of a live accompaniment.

The track should be provided on either a CD or via a device which can be connected by Bluetooth to our playback machine. We have instigated this new option following feedback from parents and teachers. You can still have live piano accompaniment or no accompaniment at all if you prefer.

Your 2025 Music Festival Adjudicators



Piano Adjudicator Joseph Tong MA(Cantab),DipRAM,LRAM,ARAM

Joseph Tong enjoys a busy and varied career as soloist, duo pianist, chamber musician, writer, teacher and adjudicator. Joseph made his Wigmore Hall debut in 1997 as winner of the Maisie Lewis Young Artists Award and gives regular recitals throughout the UK and abroad. He has been a visiting teacher at Wells Cathedral School since 2008 and holds teaching posts at Hampton School and Trinity School, Croydon.

Joseph Tong studied at Wells Cathedral School and Christ's College, Cambridge before completing postgraduate studies at the RAM with

Christopher Elton.

He has given recitals in Japan, USA, Singapore, Italy, Germany and Spain both as a soloist and in a piano duo with Waka Hasegawa. Over recent years, concerts in Finland have included invitations to perform at Sibelius's home Ainola, the Sibelius Museum in Turku and Helsinki Music Centre. Other solo recitals have included St John's, Smith Square in London, St George's Bristol, St David's Hall, Cardiff and the Presteigne Festival.

In 2018, Joseph recorded a CD of Schumann at the Sendesaal in Bremen, for release this summer on the Quartz label.

His ongoing Sibelius recording project has received widespread critical acclaim and a further disc with violinist Fenella Humphreys was released in January 2022, being selected as 'Chamber Choice' in BBC Music Magazine. A keen chamber musician, Joseph is a regular visitor to the Wye Valley Chamber Music Festival, frequently performing with his brother Daniel and in various ensembles. He has also commissioned and premiered piano duets by composers including Dai Fujikura, Daniel Kidane, Nicola LeFanu, David Matthews and Edwin Roxburgh.

Joseph Tong was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM) in 2008. He is Co-ordinator of the Wells International Piano Summer School and has been a member of the teaching faculty of the Chetham's International Summer School and Festival for Pianists.



Piano Adjudicator Anthony Williams MMus GRSM (Hons), Dip Ram, LRAM

Concert pianist, writer, lecturer, examiner and adjudicator, Anthony Williams studied at the Royal Academy of Music, London and then at Reading University.

Following international competition success, he embarked on a career as a concert pianist and alongside this quickly established an international reputation as a piano teacher and a passionate educator of pianistic musicianship at all ages and levels, giving piano masterclasses, public lecture-recitals and seminars on performance and the art of teaching both in the UK and abroad, including China and Hong Kong. He also coaches on International Summer Schools and Residential Courses.

Anthony has given talks on piano performance for Radio 3 and is author and editor of various publications including *The Best of Grade and Fingerprints* (Faber), *Teaching Notes* (ABRSM), *EPTA Piano Journal*, and the highly acclaimed *Piano Teacher's Survival Guide* (Faber).

He is an ABRSM examiner (diploma, jazz and classical), educational consultant, and a member of the examiner training and review team. He is also a member of BIFF, Chair of EPTA Europe and President of Chipping Norton Music Festival. He was Head of Keyboard and Instrumental at Radley College, Oxfordshire for 34 years until retiring last summer to focus on his freelance and consultancy work.



Piano Adjudicator Gill Johnston AGSM

Gillian studied the bassoon with Archie Camden at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and, after a period of freelance playing, concentrated on a teaching career, before moving to Harpenden where she established her own Music School, 'Harpenden Musicale'.

As well as running the Music School, Gill arranges Musicale Holidays, Competitions and a Summer Music Festival. She is the founder and Musical Director of the National Children's Wind Orchestra and associated groups. Gill is an adjudicator for The British and International Federation of Festivals and very much enjoys contact with young musicians, inspiring and enthusing their interest in music.



Vocal Adjudicator Jane Wilkinson BMus (Hons) (RSAMD), GradDipRCM

Jane trained as a soprano at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and then at the Royal College of Music where she won many competitions and awards. She performs solo art song recitals across the country and has toured South Africa, Europe and America. Jane teaches singing at Laine Theatre Arts and is a singing tutor at Imperial College, London. She is a former singing teacher at St Cecilia's School, Wandsworth, Brunel Universities, Chelsea Academy and Flora Gardens School, Hammersmith. Jane is a former member of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and now conducts New Malden Voices and New Malden Youth Choir. Jane has premiered many contemporary operas and frequently works alongside composers on new works for the stage and for recordings. She has performed oratorios and concerts at Edinburgh Festival, Royal Albert Hall and many other distinguished venues.

Jane leads vocal masterclasses and workshops internationally and often runs 'audition technique' days for aspiring singers. Jane has taught singers of all ages and standards and has a great passion for educating. Her voice has featured on a wide variety of albums and recordings from children's repertoire to contemporary folk rock. Jane has been adjudicating for the British and International Federation of Festivals since 2012.



Vocal Adjudicator Belinda Mikhail **BMus (Hons), PgDipRCM, ARCM, EMT**

Belinda Mikhail was awarded the Associated Board and the Queen Mother Scholarships to study piano and singing as a joint first study at the Royal College of Music where she won the Hopkinson Gold Medal for her final recital. She has travelled extensively performing both as a soloist and as a chamber musician and has appeared as a concerto soloist at the major London Concert Halls.

She has made numerous recordings for Sony BMG and Universal and is a vocal soloist on EMI's Vocalise album as used in trailers for ER, Lost and Grey's Anatomy. She appears as the featured soloist on many film soundtracks and her solo piano playing of the theme from Chariots of Fire was heard at every medal ceremony at the London Olympic Games.

Belinda is also in demand as a vocal coach for classical, musical theatre, pop and rock singers and runs an extensive private teaching practice. She has trained performers as diverse as Siouxsie Sioux, Jennifer Ellison, Jack Garrett, Cathy Tyson, the Oscar-winning actress Juliette Binoche, as well as the world-renowned dancer Akram Khan. Her students are enjoying major roles in theatre companies up and down the country as well as West End Shows such as Anything Goes, Chicago, Dreamgirls, Haddestown, Dirty Dancing, Book of Mormon and High School Musical, and the hit TV series', Bridgerton, Downton Abbey and Broadchurch.

Belinda's work as an adjudicator has seen her travel extensively; she was invited to Trinidad and Tobago where she adjudicated their month-long biennial Music Festival and future trips will see her travel to both Sri Lanka and Hong Kong. She thoroughly enjoys listening to a wide variety of music and meeting a wealth of musicians as she travels in her role as an adjudicator.



Instrumental Adjudicator Jonathan Rea **MA (Cantab), LTCL, PGCE**

Jonathan studied music at Cambridge, where he sang in the University Chamber Choir and studied piano with Peter Pettinger. He held choral and instrumental awards and won the Rima Alamuddin prize for piano performance.

After 10 happy years as Director of Music in Bangor Grammar School, he began a broader career in conducting, producing, writing, composing, arranging and piano accompaniment. He has conducted many programmes for BBC Songs of Praise and directed the Belfast choir for Children in Need. For several years he was the Principal Examiner for A-Level Music Performance in Northern Ireland. He is the choral director for the annual Sing! conference in Nashville, for whom he has on two occasions directed choirs with 1000 participants. He now provides consultancy to a number of church-based organisations.

Jonathan is Creative Director and Chief Executive of New Irish Arts, whose choir, orchestra and youth choir perform at over 20 events per year. They have sold out Belfast's Waterfront Hall on numerous occasions, and often have over 250 participants in their larger concerts. Jonathan is increasingly in demand as a writer and speaker, occasionally contributing to programmes like Radio 4's Prayer for the Day and Morning Service.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2020, Jonathan was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to Music in Northern Ireland. He enjoys being a Federation adjudicator because he finds it immensely satisfying to play a part in helping people pursue their musical potential.

PIANO

Competitive Classes

Please note: A piece must not be repeated across the classes (including your recital)

- Class P16 Early Beginners Piano** (Not yet playing hands together except for last chord). 17 years and under.
Own Choice 2 mins £6.00
- Class P13 Beginners Piano** (Of Prep Test standard or moving toward this grade). 17 years and under. One piece played.
Own Choice 2 mins £6.00
- Class P3 Piano Set Piece Beginners**
Beginners *Apple Pie Waltz from Upgrade 0-1* £6.00
 by Pam Wedgewood
- Class P5 Piano Solo – Baroque** Any one movement or piece written between 1650 and 1760, for example Bach, Handel, Scarlatti
Preparatory 3 mins £7.00
Elementary 4 mins £7.00
Intermediate 5 mins £8.00
Advanced 6 mins £8.00
Diploma 6 mins £9.00
- Class P6 Piano Solo – Classical** Any one movement or piece written between 1750 and 1830, for example Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert
Preparatory 3 mins £7.00
Elementary 4 mins £7.00
Intermediate 5 mins £8.00
Advanced 6 mins £8.00
Diploma 6 mins £9.00
- Class P7 Piano Solo Sonata** *Prize £20 – Sponsored by Adrian Boynton*
Any one movement from a Sonata.
You must be Grade 6 standard minimum.
Open 8 mins £10.00
- Class P8 Piano Solo – Romantic** Any Romantic piece written in 19th or early 20th century, e.g Brahms, Chopin, Mendelssohn, Schuman, Debussy, Rachmaninoff. (Also see Class P18 for a dedicated Chopin class)
Preparatory 3 mins £7.00
Elementary 4 mins £7.00
Intermediate 5 mins £8.00
Advanced 6 mins £8.00
Diploma 6 mins £9.00
- Class P9 Piano Solo – 20th / 21st Century**
Any piece not classified as Romantic, but written in a “contemporary”, classical style, for example Bartok, Schoenberg, Webern, Stravinsky (for example “Spectrum”)
Preparatory 3 mins £7.00
Elementary 4 mins £7.00
Intermediate 5 mins £8.00
Advanced 6 mins £8.00
Diploma 6 mins £9.00

Class P10 Piano Solo – Jazz, Ragtime or Modern Popular / Film / TV Music

Preparatory	3 mins	£7.00
Elementary	4 mins	£7.00
Intermediate	5 mins	£8.00
Advanced	6 mins	£8.00
Diploma	6 mins	£9.00

Class P11 Piano Duet Two pieces of your own choice.

Elementary & below	5 mins	£6.00
Intermediate	6 mins	£8.00
Advanced & above	8 mins	£8.00

Class P12 Piano Recital *Festival Trophy*

At least Grade VI standard must have been reached and you must enter at least one other piano class. Please note that you should not play a piece which you have already played in other piano classes.

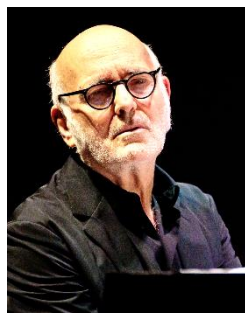
17 years and under	Two contrasting pieces	12 mins	£12.00
18 years & above	Three contrasting pieces	15 mins	£15.00

Class P14 Adults Only (18 and over) Own Choice

Up to Grade 2	One or two pieces	3 mins	£6.00
Grades 3, 4, 5	Two contrasting pieces	6 mins	£7.00

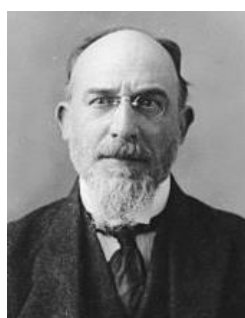
Class P17 Quick Study Performers will each be given 5 minutes at a practice piano before performing our chosen piece (max 2 minutes).

Advanced	£5.00
Diploma	£5.00

Special class for 2025:**Class P18 Guest Composer: Ludovico Einaudi**

To mark the 70th birthday of Ludovico Maria Enrico Einaudi (born 23 November 1955), an Italian pianist and composer. Einaudi began his career as a classical composer, later incorporating other styles and genres such as pop, rock, folk, and world music.
Any piece by Ludovico Einaudi.

Intermediate	5 mins	£7.00
Advanced and Diploma	6 mins	£8.00

Special class for 2025:**Class P19 Guest Composer: Erik Satie**

To mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Eric Alfred Leslie Satie (17 May 1866 – 1 July 1925), (who signed his name Erik Satie after 1884), was a French composer and pianist.
Any piece by Erik Satie.

Intermediate	5 mins	£7.00
Advanced and Diploma	6 mins	£8.00

FESTIVAL SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

www.miltonkeynesfestival.org
www.kawai.co.uk www.bonnersmusic.co.uk



@mkfa2020



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@mkyoungmusician
@2019mk

KEYBOARD

Class P15 Keyboard Own Choice. Bring your own keyboard and cable. A stand will be provided. Please make sure that your pieces are within the time limits below.

Beginners – Pre-Grade 1	3 mins	£6.00
Preparatory	3 mins	£6.00
Elementary	4 mins	£6.00
Intermediate	5 mins	£7.00
Advanced	5 mins	£7.00

NON-COMPETITIVE PIANO OR KEYBOARD

Each entrant will receive a full adjudication, certificate and written feedback but no placing. A great way to share your music, whatever you play.

Class P1 Non-Competitive Piano or Keyboard Solo

Own choice of up to two pieces.

12 years and under	3 mins	£5.00
13-17 years	4 mins	£5.00
18 and over	5 mins	£5.00



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Milton Keynes  **Young Musician**

At the end of the soloists' weekend up to 8 young musicians will be invited to perform live in the Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year showcase in the Venue Theatre on Sunday 16 March 2025

Each performer will receive a trophy, special certificate and cash prize.

INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES

Use of Backing Track Accompaniment for Instrumental Classes:

To assist parents and teachers with the cost of entering the festival, instrumental (not voice or piano) performers in classes for grades Beginners, Preparatory and Elementary (grades up to and including grade 4) may choose to use a backing track accompaniment if they wish instead of a live accompaniment.

The track should be provided on either a CD or via a device which can be connected by Bluetooth to our playback machine. We have instigated this new option following feedback from parents and teachers. You can still have live piano accompaniment or no accompaniment at all if you prefer.

BRASS

Please note: A piece must not be repeated across the classes (including your recital)

Competitive Classes

Class B3 Brass Solo – Up to two pieces of own choice. Any brass instrument.

Beginners	2 mins	£6.00
Preparatory	3 mins	£7.00
Elementary	4 mins	£7.00
Intermediate	5 mins	£8.00
Advanced / Diploma	6 mins	£8.00

Class B4 Brass Recital *Festival Trophy*

At least two contrasting pieces of own choice. Any brass instrument.

At least Intermediate standard must have been reached. You must enter one additional brass class. Please note that you should not play a piece which you have already played in other brass classes.

17 years and under	12 mins	£12.00
18 years and over	15 mins	£15.00

WOODWIND AND RECORDERS

Please note: A piece must not be repeated across the classes (including your recital)

Competitive Classes

Class W9 Beginners Own Choice All ages – any woodwind instrument

Pre-Grade 1	2 mins	£6.00
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Class W3 Flute Solo Up to two pieces of own choice.

Preparatory	3 mins	£7.00
Elementary	4 mins	£7.00
Intermediate	5 mins	£8.00
Advanced / Diploma	6 mins	£8.00

Class W4 Reed Instrument Solo Up to two pieces of own choice.

Preparatory	3 mins	£7.00
Elementary	4 mins	£7.00
Intermediate	5 mins	£8.00
Advanced / Diploma	6 mins	£8.00

Class W6 Descant or Treble Recorder Solo Up to two pieces of own choice.

Preparatory	3 mins	£7.00
Elementary	4 mins	£7.00
Intermediate	5 mins	£8.00
Advanced / Diploma	6 mins	£8.00

Class W8 Woodwind Recital *Festival Trophy*

At least two contrasting pieces of own choice. Any woodwind instrument.
 At least Intermediate standard must have been reached. You must enter at least one other instrumental class. Please note that you should not play a piece which you have already played.

17 years and under	12 mins	£12.00
18 years and over	15 mins	£15.00

STRINGS

All classes in this section are for any bowed, stringed instrument
A piece must not be repeated across the classes (including your recital)

Competitive Classes**Class S3 Strings Solo Up to two pieces of own choice.**

Beginners	2 mins	£6.00
Preparatory	3 mins	£7.00
Elementary	4 mins	£7.00
Intermediate	5 mins	£8.00
Advanced	6 mins	£8.00
Diploma	6 mins	£9.00

Class S2 Strings Duet - Beginners and Preparatory grade only
 Any two bowed instruments playing two different parts.
 Beginners/Preparatory 3 mins £6.00

Class S4 Strings Recital *Festival Trophy*

At least two contrasting pieces of own choice. Any bowed instrument. At least Intermediate standard must have been reached. You must enter at least one other instrumental class. Please note that you should not play a piece which you have already played.

17 years and under	12 mins	£12.00
18 years and over	15 mins	£15.00

PLUCKED INSTRUMENTS INCLUDING ACOUSTIC GUITAR

Please note: no electric guitar

Competitive Classes**Class G3 Guitar Solo Up to two pieces of own choice.**

Beginners	2 mins	£6.00
Preparatory	3 mins	£7.00
Elementary	4 mins	£7.00
Intermediate	5 mins	£8.00
Advanced / Diploma	6 mins	£8.00

Class G4 Any Other Plucked Instrument – (e.g harp, banjo, mandolin, ukulele)
 Up to two pieces of own choice.
 Open 5 mins £6.00

Class G5 Plucked Instrument Recital *Festival Trophy*

At least two contrasting pieces of own choice. Any plucked instrument. At least Intermediate standard must have been reached. You must enter at least one other instrumental class. Please note that you should not play a piece which you have already played.

17 years and under	12 mins	£12.00
18 years and over	15 mins	£15.00

INSTRUMENTAL DUETS, TRIOS AND QUARTETS

Held as part of the soloists' weekend on 8 and 9 March 202 at The Venue

Entry may comprise any combination of acoustic instruments, with or without piano, whole ensemble to be adjudicated. Own choice.

An entrant may perform more than once provided they perform in a different ensemble.

Class E1 Instrumental duets, trios and quartets

E1A	18 years and under	6 mins	£10.00
E1B	Open	10 mins	£15.00

MIXED ENSEMBLES AND ORCHESTRAS

Held on Saturday 15 March 2025 at The Venue Walton High

- Entry may comprise any combination of acoustic instruments, with or without piano, whole ensemble to be adjudicated.
- An entrant may perform more than once provided they perform in a different ensemble.
- You may bring your own music stands if you prefer.

Class E2 Small Instrumental Ensemble, Band or Orchestra – 5 - 10 performers

Own choice. *Festival Trophy*

E2A	18 years and under	6 mins	£25.00
E2B	Open	8 mins	£30.00

Classes E3A and 3B

**Large Instrumental Ensemble, Band, Brass Band or Orchestra –
11 or more performers**

Own choice. *Festival Trophy*

E3A	18 years and under	6 mins	£25.00
E3B	Open	8 mins	£30.00

NON-COMPETITIVE INSTRUMENTAL (NOT PIANO)

Each entrant will receive a full adjudication, certificate and written feedback but no placing.

Class N1 Non-Competitive Instrumental Solo Own choice of up to two pieces.

Any instrument (except piano) Any grade.

12 years and under	3 mins	£5.00
13 -17 years	4 mins	£5.00
18 and over	6 mins	£5.00

PERCUSSION

Class Pc1 Untuned Percussion – Solo or Duet

All ages and grades. One or two pieces of own choice. Any percussion instrument with or without backing track. Entrants must supply their own accompaniment if needed. A drum kit will be provided but you may wish to bring any additional pieces specific to your own performance.

Beginners to Grade 4	4 mins	£6.00
Grade 5 and above	6 mins	£7.00

Class Pc2 Tuned Percussion – Solo or Duet

All ages and grades. One or two pieces of own choice. Any percussion instrument with or without backing track. Entrants must supply their own instruments and accompaniment if needed.

Beginners to Grade 4	4 mins	£6.00
Grade 5 and above	6 mins	£7.00



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SOLO VOICE AND SMALL VOCAL ENSEMBLES

Please read the following additional information:

Use of backing tracks: Pre-recorded accompaniments / backing tracks are only permitted in classes V34 and V35.
All singing is without microphone.

Accompanists: If you need an accompanist, please make sure you make necessary arrangements for a rehearsal and your performance as soon as you have confirmed your entry.

See www.miltonkeynesfestival.org for a list of accompanists or you may use your own.

You must expect to pay a fee to your accompanist for your festival performance and any rehearsals you arrange. Please deal directly with your accompanist and agree all fees and any rehearsal dates with him / her. If you are unable to attend your festival class, do make sure you inform your accompanist, or you may still be charged with the agreed fee.

Competitive Classes - Young Singers

- It is expected that pieces be sung from memory.
- Whilst Young Singers classes are usually held on Sunday, there may be some classes scheduled for the Saturday, and if take up is high, a Friday evening may be introduced.

Class V2 Junior Voice Set Pieces

2A	10 years and under	The Path to the Moon by Thiman <i>from ABRSM Book 3</i>	£6.00
2B	11-14 years	Over the Rainbow <i>from ABRSM Book 4 Songbook Plus</i>	£7.00
2C	15-18 years	I Attempt from Love's Sickness to Fly by Purcell <i>from ABRSM Book 5</i>	£7.00

Class V3 British Folk Song - Accompanied or Unaccompanied

3A	10 years and under	3 mins	£6.00
3B	11-13 years	3 mins	£7.00
3C	14-18 years	4 mins	£7.00

Class V5 English Art Song – Art Song composed to an original English text (Composers such as Sullivan / Ireland / Vaughan Williams / Butterworth / Finzi / Howells / Britten)

5A	10 years and under	3 mins	£6.00
5B	11-13 years	3 mins	£7.00
5C	14-18 years	4 mins	£7.00

Class V6 Foreign Art Song – European including Russian

Art Song composed to an original European text and sung in the original language

6A	10 years and under	3 mins	£6.00
6B	11-13 years	3 mins	£7.00
6C	14-18 years	4 mins	£7.00

Class V7 Aria Festival Junior Aria Trophy

10-13 years	6 mins	£7.00
14-18 years	6 mins	£7.00

Class V8 Song from a Musical (not to Backing Track)

8A	10 years and under	3 mins	£6.00
8B	11-13 years	3 mins	£7.00
8C	14-18 years	4 mins	£7.00

Class V9 Classical or Musical Theatre Duet, Trio or Quartet

One voice per part, each having a distinct vocal line and involving singing predominantly in harmony.

18 years and under 6 mins £12.00

Class V10 Acting through Song – age 16 and above

Piano accompaniment, not backing track. Singers are to prepare a song from the Musical Theatre repertoire. The emphasis in this class is on the seamless integration of singing and acting skills demonstrated through a range of vocal quality choices and a truthful physical delivery of the song.

10A 16-17 years 5 mins £8.00

10B 18-19 years 5 mins £8.00

Class V11 Milton Keynes Young Singer of the Year Recital *Festival Trophy*

You must enter at least one other solo voice class and be aged 14-18 years. You must perform at least two of your own choice pieces within the time allowed, but at least one must be classical in genre. No backing tracks are allowed. This class will be performed on Sunday 9 March 2025.

At least two contrasting pieces 12 mins £12.00

Class V34 Any song from a Disney Film or Disney Musical performed to a backing track

Backing track must be provided on a phone / tablet or CD and must be instrumental only, with no additional singing or backing vocals. A sound system will be provided, and you will be expected to sing without a microphone.

34A 10 years and under 3 mins £6.00

34B 11-13 years 3 mins £7.00

34C 14-18 years 4 mins £7.00

Class V35 Contemporary Pop performed to backing track

Backing track must be provided on a phone / tablet or CD and must be instrumental only, with no additional singing or backing vocals. A basic sound system will be provided, and you will be expected to sing without a microphone. Your song must be appropriate for a mixed aged audience and this section is not suitable for rap or heavy metal style genres.

35A 10 years and under Any pop song of your own choice 3 mins £6.00

35B 11-14 years Any pop song of your own choice 4 mins £7.00

35C 15-18 years Any pop song of your own choice 4 mins £7.00

Class V36 Foreign Song – Indian

Song of Indian origin composed to an original text and sung in the original language.

36A 10 years and under 3 mins £6.00

36B 11-13 years 3 mins £7.00

36C 14-18 years 4 mins £7.00

Non-Competitive Voice Classes

Each entrant will receive a full adjudication, certificate and written feedback, but no placing.

Class V1 Solo Song Non-Competitive Own choice

13 years and under 3 mins £5.00

14 -18 years 4 mins £5.00

Adult 5 mins £5.00

Open Vocal Classes (Any Age)

Class V32 Guest composer: Georges Bizet - Vocal Class to mark the 150th anniversary of his death



Georges Bizet (25 October 1838 - 3 June 1875) was a French composer of the Romantic era, best known for his operas in a career cut short by his early death. In this class you may choose any song composed by Bizet.
Own choice £7.00

Class V37 Guest composer: John Rutter - Vocal Class to mark his 80th birthday



John Milford Rutter CBE (born 24 September 1945) is an English composer, conductor, editor, arranger, and record producer, mainly of choral music. In this class you may choose any song composed by Rutter.
Own choice £7.00

Competitive Classes - Adult Voice

Please note that adults may use their sheet music as an aide-memoire

Class V2D Adult Voice Set Piece

It Was a Lover and His Lass by Gerald Finzi from selection of songs
'Let us Garlands Bring' published by B&H £7.00

Class V13 Folk Song – Accompanied or Unaccompanied

Own choice 4 mins £7.00

Class V15 Renaissance / Early Baroque Song or Aria – Written before 1695

Own choice 4 mins £7.00

Class V16 Contemporary Art Song or Aria

Must be in contemporary classical idiom (ie Berg, Poulenc, Britten, Tippett)
Own choice 4 mins £7.00

Class V17 British Art Song – Art Song composed to an original English text by a composer born or lived mainly in Britain and Ireland

Own choice 4 mins £7.00

Class V19 Lieder Must be in original language

Own choice 4 mins £7.00

Class V20 Mélodie Prize £20 sponsored by Cheryl Hawkins

Must be in the original language
Own choice 4 mins £7.00

Class V21 Foreign Art Song (other than French or German - for Indian songs, please see Class V36D)

Must be in the original language
Own choice 4 mins £7.00

Class V22 Operetta

Own choice 5 mins £7.00

Class V23 Song from a Musical (performed to piano or backing track accompaniment)

Own choice 5 mins £7.00

- Class V26 Two Related Songs**
Own choice 8 mins £8.00
- Class V27 Opera** Must be in original key, may be in translation
Own choice 6 mins £7.00
- Class V28 Oratorio** Must be in original key, may be in translation. Own choice from a work of oratorio character including Masses, Motets, Sacred Cantatas etc.
Own choice 6 mins £7.00
- Class V30 Adult Voice Recital** *Festival Trophy*
Entrants must have entered at least one other voice class.
Own choice 15 mins £15.00
One own choice piece from each period:
a. Baroque / Classical (1650 – 1830)
b. Romantic / Early 20th century (1831–1950)
c. Late 20th century / Contemporary (1950 -)
- Class V31 Classical or Musical Theatre Duet, Trio or Quartet**
One voice per part, each having a distinct vocal line and involving singing predominantly in harmony. Props or costuming is allowed
Own choice 8 mins £12.00
- Class V35 Pop song performed to backing track**
Backing track must be provided on a phone / tablet or CD and must be instrumental only, with no additional singing or backing vocals. A sound system will be provided, and you will be expected to sing without a microphone. You can perform a song from any era from the 1940s onwards.
35D Own choice 4 mins £7.00
- Class V36D Foreign Song – Indian**
Song of Indian origin composed to an original text and sung in the original language.
36D Adult - 19 years and over 4 mins £7.00

BARBERSHOP

Held at The Venue Walton High on Saturday 15 March 2025

- Class C7 Barbershop Quartet** *Festival Trophy*
Two contrasting pieces of own choice
Open 8 mins £20.00
- Class C8 Barbershop Chorus** *Festival Trophy*
Two contrasting pieces of own choice
Open 8 mins £30.00

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COMMUNITY CHOIRS

Held at The Venue Walton High on Saturday 15 March 2025

Accompanists: Your choir may choose to sing unaccompanied, or there is a list of local accompanists on our website, or you may use your own. Please book your accompanist well in advance if you need one.

Choir Size: Please enter the number of performers on your entry form so that your choir may be appropriately scheduled. Depending on the number of entries received, the organiser reserves the right to combine classes if necessary.

Class C3 Adult Community, Church or Open Choirs with 20 or fewer performers

Two contrasting pieces of own choice (music in 'choral' style, minimal choreography and no extended solos)	8 mins	£20.00
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Class C4 Adult Community, Church or Open Choirs with 21 or more performers
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Two contrasting pieces of own choice (music in 'choral' style, minimal choreography and no extended solos)	8 mins	£25.00
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Class C5 Junior Community or Church Choirs with 20 or fewer performers
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Two contrasting pieces of own choice (music in 'choral' style, minimal choreography and no extended solos)	8 mins	£20.00
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Class C6 Junior Community or Church Choirs with 21 or more performers

Two contrasting pieces of own choice (music in 'choral' style, minimal choreography and no extended solos)	10 mins	£25.00
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SCHOOL CHOIRS

School choirs will take part at The Venue Walton High on Saturday 15 March 2025

Backing tracks: Pre-recorded accompaniments are not permitted, and we provide a Kawai piano for your use.

Accompanists: Your choir may choose to sing unaccompanied, or there is a list of local accompanists on our website, or you may use your own. Please book your accompanist well in advance.

Choir Size: Please enter the number of performers on your entry form so that your choir may be appropriately scheduled. Depending on the number of entries received, the organiser reserves the right to combine classes if necessary.

Class C1 School Choirs with 20 or fewer performers *Festival Choirs Trophy to the winner of each class.* Two contrasting pieces of own choice (music in 'choral' style, minimal choreography, no extended solos)

Year 3 and under	8 mins	£20.00
Year 6 and under	8 mins	£20.00
Years 7-11	10 mins	£20.00
6 th form and under	10 mins	£20.00

Class C2 School Choirs with 21 or more performers *Festival Choirs Trophy to the winner of each class.* Two contrasting pieces of own choice (music in 'choral' style, minimal choreography, no extended solos)

Year 3 and under	8 mins	£25.00
Year 6 and under	8 mins	£25.00
Years 7-11	10 mins	£25.00
6 th form and under	10 mins	£25.00

RULES AND INFORMATION

The festival is intended for amateurs

- Professionals may take part as Adjudicators, Accompanists, Conductors and Officials.
- For the purpose of the festival, professionals are those for whom income is, or has been, derived from the branch of the profession in which they wish to compete or perform or who have completed a full-time college course in the specialist subject in which they wish to compete or perform.

The committee reserves the right to:

- accept or reject any proposed entry.
- sub-divide or combine classes with a large or limited number of entries.
- appoint replacement or additional adjudicators and to alter, modify or cancel any of the arrangements detailed in the syllabus.

Entries

- The entries should be sent to Entry Secretary by the date specified.

Age Limit

- In all sections the operative day for determining age is 1 February.

Standards

- Standards are indicated either by age, grade, or by experience in tuition. Where a class is divided into grades, the entrant should be able to play to that standard, but not yet have passed a higher grade than that specified.
- The piece played must reflect the standard entered, ie a piece set for a grade 5 exam should not be played in an Elementary (grade 4) class. Only one grade may be entered in all graded classes, and entrants and/or teachers are responsible for ensuring the correct grade has been selected.

Multiple Entries

- **(Music Classes only)** Entrants may perform once only in each class, except in duet, trio or ensemble classes where an entrant may perform more than once provided a different part is performed. Entrants who are members of more than one choir or ensemble are permitted to perform as a member of each choir or ensemble to which they belong.
- **(Speech Classes only):** A performer may only enter a class once. When performing in a duologue or group class a second entry is permitted provided a different part with a different partner/group is performed.

Own Choice Pieces

- The festival is under a legal obligation to supply the Performing Rights Society with details of all items to be performed.
- Own choice titles and composers must be given on the entry form for all sections.
- A copy of each Own Choice piece must be handed to the adjudicator's steward at the time of the performance.
- Photocopies are acceptable provided an original is used for the performance. The photocopy will be retained and destroyed after the adjudication of the class.

Speech & Drama Section

- Entrants do not have to seek copyright permission for any poetry, prose or solo dramatic items performed, to a time limit of 10 minutes.
- Duologues and group dramatic activity are not covered by this agreement, and copyright for these items should be sought by performers at the time of entry.
- Solo dramatic items must be announced with title and author at the time of performance to qualify for copyright indemnity, and the performer must not change the words or gender of the character.

Time Limits

- The time limit for each class is shown in the syllabus and this must be strictly adhered to.
- Any performance in which there is an excessive overrun of the time limit will be stopped by the adjudicator or adjudicator's clerk.
- Where the performance is obviously ending as the time limit is reached, the adjudicator's steward will allow the performance to conclude, but will inform the adjudicator when the time limit is reached, and his/her category and remarks will not cover material performed after the time limit is exceeded.
- Although time limits are specified you are required to time your piece/s and enter this under "Performance Time" as accurately as possible on the Entry Form.

Photocopying of Music

The festival cannot legally allow anyone to play/perform from photocopied music and has no choice but to disqualify performers who do so, unless before their class starts, they can produce evidence showing that the publisher's agreement has been sought and given.

The only photocopies the festival can allow in law are:

- Copies for the adjudicator's use, which will be destroyed at the end of each class.
- For an awkward page-turn which may hinder a performance.

Accompanists

- Entrants are advised that the festival does not engage official accompanists. There are suggestions on the festival website or you may bring your own.

Notification of time, date and venue of performers' classes

Performers will be notified as to the time, date and venue of their class/es as soon as possible after closing date for entries, and not later than 21 days before the commencement of their section. This information will be emailed to you if an email address has been provided.

Certificates

- All entrants will be issued with a certificate and an adjudication, providing the Festival rules have been complied with.
- The categories awarded will be in accordance with the standards laid down by the British and International Federation of Festivals as follows:

95+	Exceptional
90 - 94	Outstanding
85 - 89	Distinction
80 - 84	Commended
75 - 79	Merit
70 - 74	Progressing
65 - 69	Developing

- The winners of each class will be announced. Further placings will be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator. (Please see sections for specific arrangements.)

Adjudicators

- Only festival officials directly concerned with the section may approach the adjudicator while the session is in progress.
- The adjudicator may stop any performance when his or her judgement has been formed. The adjudicator's decision in all cases is final.

Photography and Recording

- No photography, videotaping or audio recording is permitted of any live performance at any festival event by anyone, other than official photographers authorised by the organisers, in any circumstances. Please respect this rule and do not attempt to photograph any performer.
- Photographs of trophy/medal presentations will only be permitted with the express consent of the adjudicator, organiser and parents of the children concerned.

- In order to assist in promotion of the festival, the press, television and radio may be invited to attend, and the festival may engage an official photographer. All photographs, video or film recording will be limited to the performance area, in the presence of festival officials.
- Parents or teachers entering children individually or in groups will be asked to indicate on entries those children who are not to be photographed, video-taped or filmed.

Child Protection

- The Festival's Child Protection Policy and approach to Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone is published explicitly in our Syllabus, Programme and Website. By completing and signing the entry form (or online entry system) all parents / guardians / carers and teachers of entrants under 18 (or vulnerable adults of any age) confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the entrants to take part in the festival. Without consent the entry to the festival cannot be accepted.

Any decision of the Committee in all matters arising out of, or not specifically covered in these rules, is final.

Child Protection Policy

Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts for Music, Dance and Drama

The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech works for amateur festivals everywhere to help create thousands of educational performance opportunities for children and young people each year.

The Federation, and our member Festivals, are committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind.

We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them.

This policy applies to our Board of Trustees, paid staff, Adjudicator members, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of the Federation and our member Festivals.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount.
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies are essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- to provide protection for the children and young people who participate in our festivals, including the children of festival members. to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

The Federation will review this policy each year in November in line with any changes in legislation or guidance.

Child Licensing Regulations regarding Child Performances (children aged 16 or under)

The children involved in the festival will be authorised by a Body of Persons Approval organised by the festival with Milton Keynes Council.

Body of Persons Approval (BOPA)

A BOPA removes the need to apply for individual licences for child performers and it is granted to the organisation that is responsible for the performances, ie Milton Keynes Festival. It is therefore the organisation that is approved as a suitable group. It can apply to one performance, or a series of performances so it covers our whole festival. The dance section of the festival will organise its own BOPA.

The festival performances must meet at least one of the following to require a BOPA:

- A charge was made in connection with the performance (e.g an admission fee)
- It took place on licensed premises for alcohol supply
- It was broadcast performance
- It was recorded to be broadcast
- Performances organised and produced by your child's school are exempt.
- In order to satisfy the local authority that our festival is a suitable organisation to be granted a BOPA, the local authority needs to see evidence of the following:
- Clear and robust safeguarding policies
- Designated Safeguarding Officer
- A regularly updated Child Protection Policy in place
- Evidence of any safeguarding training undertaken by festival team
- DBS checking of volunteers
- The supervision of children from sign-in to sign-out, including provision for supervision backstage if applicable.

Our festival satisfies all the above requirements. Your help and assistance with this is greatly appreciated and if you have any queries or concerns please do let us know.
hello@miltonkeynesfestival.org

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE	
President: Mr Hilary Davan Wetton MA DMus	Vice Presidents: Mrs Jocelyn Lord Mr Adrian Boynton
Festival Chair: Pat Haig	
Hon Sec: Janice Hughes	Hon Treasurer: Kris Taylor
Music and Speech and Drama	Dance
Organisers:	Organisers:
Adrian Ho (Piano)	Kris Taylor
Mike Guy (Instrumental and Young Musician)	Janice Hughes (and Child Protection)
Isabel Sousa (Voice and Speech and Drama)	Keeva Buckley
Gina Sharp (Festival Admin, Reception)	Keeley Kubiak
Michelle Okowa (Multi-Section Support, Catering)	Adam Lewis
	Kerry Bright
Website Mike Guy	Eloise Ferry
<p>Our festival is run by a team of <u>dedicated</u> and friendly volunteers whose generosity ensures our event runs smoothly and efficiently.</p> <p>If you are interested in being involved with our events, please email hello@miltonkeynesfestival.org for more information – no previous experience is required.</p> <p>Check out the festival website: www.miltonkeynesfestival.org</p>	



BONNERS

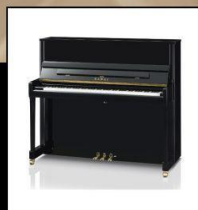
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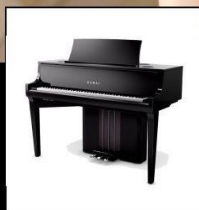
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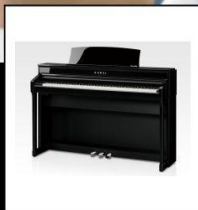
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