

Northampton Festival of the Performing Arts



Syllabus 2025 Music and Speech and Drama



A chance to perform

A chance for appraisal

A chance to hear others perform

www.northamptonfestival.co.uk

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Northampton Festival of the Performing Arts Music Bursary



An award of £250 towards further training, relevant equipment or resources given generously by the Festival Committee to one of our entrants and nominated by our Music adjudicator.

The recipient will be announced at our Gala Evening on 18th May 2025



Northampton Festival of the Performing Arts Speech and Drama Bursary



An award of £250 towards further training, relevant equipment or resources given generously by the Festival Committee to one of our entrants and nominated by our Speech and Drama adjudicator.

The recipient will be announced at our Gala Evening on 18th May 2025



Festival Chair's Welcome



Welcome to the 48th Year of the Northampton Festival of the Performing Arts. We are delighted to be returning once again to the Deco Theatre, Northampton.

Northampton Festival is affiliated to The British and International Federation of Festivals (BIFF), their mission is 'to enable participation in the Performing Arts'. The festival provides a welcome platform for participants to perform in front of an audience and receive constructive adjudication which will promote further development. The range of classes provides opportunities for people of all ages and standards.

This year we are extremely fortunate to welcome to the adjudication panel Nadia Hinson (Music) and Eleanor McLeod (Drama). Both adjudicators are members of The British and International Federation of Festivals.

There are a range of both competitive and non-competitive classes for performers of all ages and levels of current achievement, and the recital classes create an opportunity for students to improve their stamina because they demand a higher level of concentration, which in turn develops how to sustain a longer performance.

Entries can be done online, postal or email but we strongly encourage you to use our online entry system for your ease. This can be found at [www. www.northamptonfestival.co.uk](http://www.northamptonfestival.co.uk). Please do email us at contact@northamptonfestival.co.uk should you need any assistance.

During the festival, I would actively encourage performers to go and support musicians and drama students in other classes. Watching and listening to classes in other art disciplines, whilst listening to feedback from the adjudication will provide another form of musical and drama development.

The festival is supported by several dedicated volunteers and a committee, which has worked very hard to ensure this year is a total success.

Please do get in contact with us if we can help further. I look forward to meeting you at the festival.

The closing date for entries is the 4 April 2025, with an exciting end to the festival weekend with the gala performance being held on Sunday 18 May 2025. Good luck and make sure you have fun!

Best wishes,

Gemma Coombes, Festival Chair, Northampton Festival of the Performing Arts

www.northamptonfestival.co.uk

Affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Drama & Speech
Registered as a Charity No. 292172

Northampton Festival of the Performing Arts

48th Festival Year

Festival Venue: The Deco Theatre, Abington Square, Northampton NN1 4AE

Music Festival:

Adjudicator: Nadia Hinson

Saturday 17 / Sunday 18 / May 2025: Piano, instrumental and vocal soloists.

Friday 16 May 2025: School choirs

Speech & Drama:

Adjudicator: Eleanor McLeod

Friday / Saturday / Sunday 16 / 17 / 18 May 2025

Final Concert: Sunday 18 May 2025

Closing date for entries: 4 April 2025

Non-Competitive classes:

Are ideal for those entering the festival for the first time or those seeking appraisal only. You will receive a certificate and hand-written feedback but no medal placing.

Age groups:

Our classes are open to performers of any age – we would welcome adults and children alike, as soloists, groups or ensembles.

Music Festival:

In Music we have classes for vocal and all instruments for soloists or ensembles.

Speech and Drama:

There is poetry, memorised prose and prepared reading, acting, devising and mime for soloists and groups.

Trophies:

If you won a returnable trophy in the 2024 festival, would you please return it to your teacher by 4 April 2025 so that we can have them ready to award for 2025.

Medals and non-returnable trophies do not have to be returned.

HOW TO ENTER THE FESTIVAL

The festival is run completely by volunteers, and we would respectfully ask you to use our online system, if possible, to make your entries. Should you have difficulties we have also provided alternative methods:

ENTER ONLINE

Go to our website www.northamptonfestival.co.uk and click the box which will take you into the entry portal. You will be asked to enter your personal details and then you can go ahead and enter your chosen classes. If you have entered online before your previous details will have been saved.

Payment can be made by PayPal or BACS, or you can send a cheque, made payable to Northampton Festival of the Performing Arts to the Festival Chair, Mrs Gemma Coombes, 1 Willoughby Way, Piddington NN7 2EH

Before completing any entry form, please read the syllabus very carefully and if you have any queries, please email contact@northamptonfestival.co.uk

Once entries have closed the festival programme will be compiled and class timings will be emailed to the entrant, parent or teacher who made the entry.

BY EMAIL

Download the entry form from our website www.northamptonfestival.co.uk, complete and email to contact@northamptonfestival.co.uk

You can simply pay by either bank transfer or BACS to the following account with your contact as a reference:

Account name: Northampton Festival of the Performing Arts

Sort code: 54 -10 -44 Account number: 45916896

When payment is received your entries will be processed.

BY POST

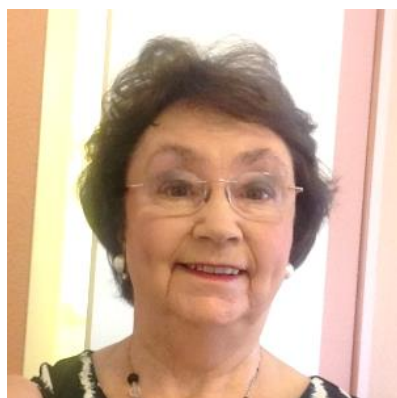
Download the form from our website www.northamptonfestival.co.uk and print a copy, complete it and send with your cheque to the festival Chair, Mrs Gemma Coombes, 1 Willoughby Way, Piddington NN7 2EH

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE	
Chair	Gemma Coombes
Vice Chair	Arghavan Atife
Secretary	Jenaya Smith
Treasurer	Mike Naylor
Drama Festival Coordinators	Jenaya Smith and Kelly Hartnett
Music Festival Coordinators	Serena Knight and Arghavan Atife
Trophy Secretary	Serena Knight
General Members	Phil Knight, Alex Sullivan, Rosalind Gibson and Carol Evans
If you are interested in helping with the festival in any way, please email us on contact@northamptonfestival.co.uk	

SPEECH AND DRAMA

- Trophies and awards will be listed in the programme.
- Please make yourself aware of our rules including time limits.
- Where appropriate CD accompaniment may be used.
- Time limit does not include a brief introduction or setting of stage.

YOUR SPEECH AND DRAMA ADJUDICATOR ELEANOR MCLEOD MA(Ed) DipEd, LLAM (Hons)



Eleanor McLeod comes from Swansea where she gained a love of performing and the spoken word through the LAMDA examinations, gaining her teaching diploma. She became a professional actress for more than twenty years, frequently presenting Shakespeare to schools all over the world and working in theatre, radio and television. She is currently a teacher of Speech and Drama, a member of the LAMDA Examining Board and a BIFF adjudicator, which again has been an opportunity to work overseas as well as in the UK. She still performs when she

has time and as a writer, has had three books of her poems for children published and a selection of monologues and duologues for young performers, and most recently a book of stories for children. She is always pleased to share the talent of young Festival performers as their enthusiasm is a joy and she is passionate about nurturing the spoken word in this age of digital communication. Interaction with them is such a pleasure when praising their work. She loves hearing her own pieces performed and is delighted to be returning to adjudicate at Northampton Festival.

Find out more about Eleanor and see her range of publication for children and young people at the website: www.eleanormcleod.co.uk

VERSE SPEAKING

OWN CHOICE

Own choice of any poem or part of a poem

D1	Year 1 & Under	Not to exceed 2 minutes	£8
D2	Year 2	Not to exceed 2 minutes	£8
D3	Year 3	Not to exceed 2 minutes	£8
D4	Year 4	Not to exceed 2 minutes	£8
D5	Year 5	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£8
D6	Year 6	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£8
D7	Years 7 & 8	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£10
D8	Years 9 & 10	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£10
D9	Year 11 and over	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£10

NB - For Class D9 if using a poem by the current or former Poet Laureate please enter Class D19

SET VERSE (All written by Eleanor McLeod)

D11	Y1 & Under	EASTER WEEK <u>OR</u> TIMOTHY MY TEDDY	£8
D12	Year 2	A SECRET <u>OR</u> SPRINGTIME SNOWMAN	£8
D13	Year 3	I'M TRYING TO LEARN TO SKIP <u>OR</u> ROUNDERS	£8
D14	Year 4	BONFIRE NIGHT <u>OR</u> READY	£8
D15	Year 5	PLAYTIME <u>OR</u> THE MAGIC WORLD OF BOOKS	£8
D16	Year 6	BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH A BUTTERFLY <u>OR</u> GRANNY SAYS	£8
D17	Years 7 & 8	WHAT DID THEY DREAM OF? <u>OR</u> A SECOND-HAND WORLD	£10
D18	Years 9 & 10	Any poem studied at GCSE	£10
D19	Year 11+	Poem written by current/former Poet Laureate	£10

NB - *Adult entries welcome*

VERSE SPEAKING - STUDENTS WITH ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Own choice of any poem or part of a poem

D10	Year 6 & under	Not to exceed 2 minutes	£8
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PREPARED READING

PREPARED RELIGIOUS READING

Cannot be same reading as Class D36/D37 Any version of the Bible

D35	Year 6 & under	Not to exceed 2 minutes	£8
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THE NORTHAMPTON BIBLE SOCIETY CLASS – PREPARED BIBLE READING

Cannot be same reading as D35/37

Taken from Jerusalem, New Jerusalem or Good News Bible

D36	Year 7 to age 19	Not to exceed 2 minutes	£10
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PREPARED READING FROM ANY RELIGIOUS TEXT

Cannot be same reading as D35/D36

D37	Open	Not to exceed 2 minutes	£10
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PREPARED READING FROM ANY TEXT

D53	Year 4 & under	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£8
D53B	Year 6 & under	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£8
D54	Year 7 to age 19	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£10

MEMORISED PROSE & DUET PROSE/POETRY

MEMORISED PROSE SPEAKING

D32	Year 6 & under	Not to exceed 2 minutes	£8
D33	Year 7 & over	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£10

MEMORISED POETRY OR PROSE SPEAKING FOR TWO SPEAKERS (not to be acted)

D34	Open	Not to exceed 5 minutes	£15
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WRITE YOUR OWN POEM OR PROSE – ANY AGE

ORIGINAL POETRY OR PROSE – WRITE AND RECITE

Write your own poem or story then recite it at the festival

To be spoken by the author (must not be the same poem as Class D21)

D20 Open Not to exceed 2 minutes £10

WRITE YOUR OWN POEM – WRITTEN ONLY

D21 £10

ACTION REQUIRED - copy of poems for both **D20/D21** to be sent via email no later than **April 30th 2025**, to contact@northamptonfestival.co.uk

Within the email a parent, guardian or teacher is required to verify that it is the unaided work of the student(s). All poets are invited to attend the adjudication of this class together with parents, teachers and friends however those wishing to perform should enter Class D20 [Must not be the same poem as Class D20]

DRAMA GROUPS

GROUP ACTING - SHAKESPEARE

A scene from one of Shakespeare's plays for any number of players (minimum 3)

D22 Open Not to exceed 6 minutes £21

GROUP MIME

Short scene for any number of players (minimum 3). Costume optional.

Music allowed but no props

D23 Open Not to exceed 5 minutes £21

SCHOOLS – GROUP ACTING

A scene for any number of players (minimum 3) - Music allowed.

Costume optional. Limited use of hand props, tables and chairs available.

D25 Open Not to exceed 10 minutes £21

NON SCHOOLS – GROUP ACTING

A scene for any number of players (minimum 3). Costume optional.

Music allowed. Limited use of hand props, tables and chairs available.

D26 Open Not to exceed 10 minutes £21

SCHOOLS – MIXED ARTS

Must include at least two of the following: Singing, Music, Speech, Movement.

Costume permitted. Minimum number of performers is 6.

D27 Not to exceed 15 minutes £21

NON SCHOOLS - MIXED ARTS

Must include at least two of the following: Singing, Music, Speech, Movement.

Costume permitted. Minimum number of performers is 6.

D28 Open Not to exceed 15 minutes £21

GROUP SPEAKING

At least two contrasting pieces of poetry or prose

D29 Year 6 & under Not to exceed 6 minutes £21

D30 Year 7 & over Not to exceed 6 minutes £21

ACTING AND MIME CLASSES

Please note:

PERFORMERS FOR CLASSES D38A, D38B, D42 & D43 WILL REQUIRE CEE LICENSES DUE TO THE FRIDAY AFTERNOON SCHEDULING – follow this link to apply for the licence

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/children-and-families/children-employment-and-entertainment/child-performance-licences>

DUOLOGUE

D38A	Years 4 & under	Not to exceed 4 minutes	£10
D38B	Years 5 & 6	Not to exceed 4 minutes	£10
D39	Years 7 & 8	Not to exceed 5 minutes	£12
D40	Years 9 & 10	Not to exceed 5 minutes	£12
D41	Year 11 & over	Not to exceed 6 minutes	£12

SOLO ACTING

D42	Years 4 & under	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£8
D43	Years 5 & 6	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£8
D44	Years 7 & 8	Not to exceed 4 minutes	£10
D45	Years 9 & 10	Not to exceed 5 minutes	£10
D46	Year 11 & over	Not to exceed 5 minutes	£10

SOLO ACTING SHAKESPEARE

D47	Years 7 to 10	Not to exceed 4 minutes	£10
D48	Year 11 & over	Not to exceed 5 minutes	£10

MIME – SOLO or DUO

D49	Open	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£10
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OPEN NON-COMPETITIVE CLASS – ANY AGE

The entrant may present any item of speech or drama including poems, devising or acting.

D52	Open	Not to exceed 3 minutes	£10
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Northampton Festival of the Performing Arts Speech and Drama Bursary



An award of £250 towards further training, relevant equipment or resources given generously by the Festival Committee to one of our entrants and nominated by our Speech and Drama adjudicator.

The recipient will be announced at our Gala Evening on 18th May 2025

MUSIC

Trophies and awards will be listed in the festival programme

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING YOUR ENTRY

You can perform in any music class using either pre-recorded backing tracks or live accompaniment, such as a pianist. This is your choice

PLEASE ENTER WITHIN YOUR GRADE BAND

For instance, if you are Grade 5 piano entrant then you should enter Intermediate grade classes and play a piece of that level (ie a grade 5 piece, not a grade 4 piece). This rule applies to all piano and instrumental classes.

LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT

We do not provide an official festival accompanist.

You may bring your own accompanist, but if you don't have one then please contact us if you have difficulty.

If you engage an accompanist, you must expect to pay for their services and this is your responsibility and not that of the festival.

We advise that you engage an accompanist as soon as you have entered the festival as they get busy, and you might also like to have a rehearsal before your performance.

ELECTRONIC ACCOMPANIMENT (backing tracks)

If you choose to use pre-recorded backing tracks for your performance(s) please bring the tracks on a device (ie on a CD or Bluetooth).

All vocal performances will be unmiked.

TIME LIMITS

Time limits must be adhered to – please make yourself aware of our rules.

CLASS GRADES USED IN THIS SYLLABUS Classes are graded as follows:

Beginners	Of prep test standard or moving towards this grade
Preparatory	Grades 1-2
Elementary	Grades 3-4
Intermediate	Grades 5-6
Advanced	Grades 7-8 or above

YOUR MUSIC ADJUDICATOR

NADIA HINSON (GRSM Hons, LRAM, LTCL, Royal Society of Musicians)



Nadia graduated from the Royal Academy of Music after having studied the violin with Manoug Parikian and the piano with Jean Harvey. She was awarded first prize for Aural studies and her quartet won the string chamber prize in her final year. Nadia was the featured soloist playing the Lark Ascending and Bach double violin concerto for the Benslow Trust at St. James' Piccadilly having been awarded an instrument to continue her studies.

Other concertos in her repertoire include performances of the Mendelssohn, Mozart no.3 and 4, Haydn in C, De Beriot, Viotti, and works by Beethoven and Finzi.

She began her career as a freelance violinist playing in many London based orchestras. As an accompanist to singers and instrumentalists, she met her musician husband Nigel and together they founded the Veloce Ensemble (string quartet and clarinet quintet) touring throughout Britain performing specially commissioned works for that genre. Appearances at festivals and stately homes inspired a regular concert series at Belvoir Castle and Holmepierrepoint Hall. As a recitalist on violin and piano throughout the East Midlands, Nadia has been highlighted in festivals and BBC features locally.

She is also currently the owner and director of the Hinson School of Music in Nottingham, and is an international examiner for the ABRSM, a Jazz examiner for the ABRSM, an adjudicator for the British and International federation of Festivals, and a member of the Royal Society of Musicians.

PIANO AND KEYBOARD

PIANO SOLO – COMPETITIVE - One or two own choice pieces

M1	Beginners	2 mins	£8
M2	Preparatory	3 mins	£8
M3	Elementary	4 mins	£8
M4	Intermediate	5 mins	£10
M5	Advanced	5 mins	£10

PIANO SOLO – JAZZ, SWING, RAGTIME OR TV THEMES – Own choice

M9	Beginners	2 mins	£8
M10	Preparatory	3 mins	£8
M11	Elementary	4 mins	£8
M12	Intermediate	5 mins	£10
M13	Advanced	5 mins	£10

PIANO DUET OR TRIO – two pieces of own choice

M6	Elementary and below	5 mins	£10
M7	Intermediate and above	8 mins	£13

PIANO RECITAL – Two or more own choice pieces

For pianists playing at Grade 6 or above standard. Your opportunity to perform in concert style, this class will be a celebration of musical excellence.

M20	18 years and below	12 mins	£13
M21	Adult	15 mins	£16

MODERN BAND INSTRUMENT – COMPETITIVE – Own Choice

Band instruments including electric keyboard, electric guitar or drums. Please bring along your own drum kit, keyboard, stand, amp and lead

M14	Open to any age	5 mins	£10
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PIANO OR KEYBOARD SOLO – NON-COMPETITIVE – Own choice

You will receive a performance certificate and hand-written feedback but no medal placing. A piano will be supplied but please bring your own keyboard, stand and lead.

M19	Open to any age	5 mins	£11
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INSTRUMENTAL

Please refer to the notes on page 9. In each class, unless specified, you may perform to piano or backing track accompaniment.

BRASS SOLO – COMPETITIVE – Own choice

Any brass instrument

B22	Beginners	2 mins	£8
B23	Preparatory	3 mins	£8
B24	Elementary	4 mins	£8
B25	Intermediate	5 mins	£10
B26	Advanced	5 mins	£10

STRINGS SOLO – COMPETITIVE – Own choice

Any stringed instrument

S22	Beginners	2 mins	£8
S23	Preparatory	3 mins	£8
S24	Elementary	4 mins	£8
S25	Intermediate	5 mins	£10
S26	Advanced	5 mins	£10

WOODWIND SOLO – COMPETITIVE – Own choice. Any woodwind instrument

W22	Beginners	2 mins	£8
W23	Preparatory	3 mins	£8
W24	Elementary	4 mins	£8
W25	Intermediate	5 mins	£10
W26	Advanced	5 mins	£10

BRASS, STRINGS, PERCUSSION AND WOODWIND DUET, TRIO OR QUARTET

Two pieces of own choice. Any brass, stringed or woodwind instrument

M28	Beginners	4 mins	£11
M29	Preparatory	4 mins	£11
M30	Elementary	6 mins	£13
M31	Intermediate	8 mins	£16
M32	Advanced	8 mins	£16

INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL – Two or more own choice pieces

For performers of any instrument (not including piano) playing at Grade 6 or above standard. Your opportunity to perform in concert style, this class will be a celebration of musical excellence.

In20 18 years and below 12 mins £13

In21 Adult 15 mins £16

BRASS, STRINGS, PERCUSSION, AND WOODWIND SOLO – NON COMPETITIVE

Any brass, stringed, percussion or woodwind instrument (except piano) You will receive a performance certificate and hand written feedback but no medal placing.

M33 Open to any age 8 mins £10

VOCAL

Please refer to the notes on page 9. In each class, unless specified, you may perform to piano or backing track accompaniment.

JUNIOR VOICE

VOCAL SOLO – ENGLISH ART SONG (Composers such as Sullivan / Ireland / Vaughan Williams / Butterworth / Finzi / Howells / Britten) – Own choice

M37 Years 1-6 3 mins £8

M38 Years 7-9 4 mins £10

M39 Years 10-11 4 mins £10

M40 Years 12-13 4 mins £10

VOCAL SOLO – CLASSICAL SONG FROM OPERA, OPERETTA OR ORATORIO – Own choice

M72 Years 7-9 4 mins £8

M73 Years 10-11 5 mins £10

M74 Years 12-13 5 mins £10

VOCAL SOLO – MUSICAL THEATRE WITH BACKING TRACK OR PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

Own choice. Can be performed to pre-recorded backing track or piano accompaniment but sung without a microphone

M41 Years 1-6 4 mins £8

M42 Years 7-9 4 mins £8

VOCAL SOLO – MUSICAL THEATRE WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT ONLY

Own choice. To be performed with piano accompaniment only and sung without a microphone. Pre-recorded backing tracks are not allowed for these classes.

M43 Years 10-11 5 mins £10

M44 Years 12-13 5 mins £10

CLASSICAL OR MUSICAL THEATRE DUETS AND TRIOS – up to two pieces of own choice

If ages are mixed, the group enters in the class for the oldest performer

M45 Years 1-6 4 mins £11

M46 Years 7-9 6 mins £13

M47 Years 10-11 6 mins £13

M48 Years 12-13 6 mins £13

VOCAL SOLO – FOLK SONG ACCOMPANIED / UNACCOMPANIED – Own choice

M53 Years 1-6	3 mins	£8
M54 Years 7-9	4 mins	£10
M55 Years 10-11	4 mins	£10
M56 Years 12-13	4 mins	£10

VOCAL SOLO – FOREIGN SONG OF EUROPEAN ORIGIN (Including Russian) – Own choice

(must be sung in the original language)

M49 Years 1-6	3 mins	£8
M50 Years 7-9	4 mins	£8
M51 Years 10-11	5 mins	£10
M52 Years 12-13	5 mins	£10

VOCAL SOLO – FOREIGN SONG OF NON-EUROPEAN ORIGIN – Own choice

(must be sung in the original language – not an English translation)

M57 Years 1-6	3 mins	£8
M58 Years 7-9	4 mins	£8
M59 Years 10-11	5 mins	£10
M60 Years 12-13	5 mins	£10

CONTEMPORARY POP SONG SOLO - Own choice and any era – backing tracks should not include backing vocals and the content should be audience appropriate.

M75 Years 1-6	3 mins	£8
M76 Years 7-13	4 mins	£8

JUNIOR VOCAL RECITAL – All ages and voices, including adults – Own choice

A selection of contrasting songs by different composers.

M61 Age group 14-18 years	15 mins	£16
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VOCAL SOLO – NON-COMPETITIVE – All ages and voices, including adults

For entrants who wish to perform and receive constructive comments and advice from the adjudicator. You will receive a performance certificate and hand-written feedback but no medal placing.

M62 Open to any age	8 mins	£11
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SCHOOLS CHOIRS

Classes M63-M66 will be held during the school day on Friday 16th May 2025 at The Deco Theatre

SCHOOL CHOIRS – COMPETITIVE – Two pieces of own choice

Your own pre-recorded accompaniment is permitted or please bring your own accompanist.

M63 Years 1-3	8 mins	£21
M64 Years 6 & Under	8 mins	£21
M65 Years 7-11	10 mins	£26
M66 Years 12-13	10 mins	£26

ADULT VOICE

Please refer to the notes on page 9. In each class, unless specified, you may perform to piano or backing track accompaniment.

VOCAL SOLO – ENGLISH ART SONG (Composers such as Sullivan / Ireland / Vaughan Williams / Butterworth / Finzi / Howells / Britten) – Own choice

AV76 Adult 5 mins £10

VOCAL SOLO – CLASSICAL SONG FROM OPERA, OPERETTA OR ORATORIO – Own choice

AV77 Adult 5 mins £10

VOCAL SOLO – MUSICAL THEATRE – Own choice

Can be performed to pre-recorded backing track or piano accompaniment but sung without a microphone

AV78 Adult 5 mins £10

CLASSICAL OR MUSICAL THEATRE DUETS AND TRIOS – up to two pieces of own choice

AV79 Adult 10 mins £16

VOCAL SOLO – FOLK SONG ACCOMPANIED / UNACCOMPANIED – Own choice

AV80 Adult 5 mins £10

VOCAL SOLO – FOREIGN SONG OF EUROPEAN ORIGIN (Including Russian) – Own choice

(must be sung in the original language – not an English translation)

AV81 Adult 5 mins £10

VOCAL SOLO – FOREIGN SONG OF NON-EUROPEAN ORIGIN – Own choice

(must be sung in the original language – not an English translation)

AV82 Adult 5 mins £10

CONTEMPORARY POP SONG SOLO - Own choice – from any era and sung to backing track or piano accompaniment

AV83 Adult 5 mins £10

ADULT VOCAL RECITAL – Own choice - A selection of contrasting songs by different composers

AV84 Adult 15 mins £16



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The recipient will be announced at our Gala Evening on 18th May 2025

FESTIVAL RULES OF ENTRY

Full information can be found by visiting our website

www.northamptonfestival.co.uk

ENTRIES

1. All entries must be made either online via the website entry portal or using the official entry form by email to contact@northamptonfestival.co.uk, or by post and submitted as a paper entry reaching the Entries Secretary on or before the closing date as given in the syllabus.
2. Late entries will not be accepted.
3. Entry fees will only be returned as a decision of the committee.
4. The committee reserves the right to refuse any entry.
5. Each entrant must be in the appropriate school year group for each class. Group entries must belong to the specified year groupings. Class is determined by how old the pupil is on 31st August 2025.
6. Performers in all ensemble classes must be bona fide members of the group concerned.
7. Entrants may perform only once in each class except in duet, trio or ensemble classes where an entrant may perform more than once provided a different part is played.

GENERAL

8. The festival is for amateurs, which is defined as one who does not receive more than out-of-pocket expenses for services rendered in those branches of the arts with which the festival is concerned. This rule does not apply to a conductor.
9. The committee reserves the right to limit, cancel or subdivide any class.
10. The committee reserves the right to substitute any adjudicator without notice.
11. No photographs or recordings may be taken during any performance but may be taken after the performance with relevant permission.
12. The festival committee cannot accept responsibility for property left at the venues during the festival.
13. Class timings will be emailed to the entrant, parent or teacher who made the entry.

OWN CHOICE PIECES

14. A copy of Own Choice pieces (including choices from examination grades) must be provided for the adjudicator's use on the day and be marked with name and class number.
15. The festival does not provide an official accompanist. Electronic accompaniment (backing track) is permitted and must be provided on CD or via Bluetooth.
16. Time Limits apply to actual performance time, which does not include tuning time, setting of the stage or introduction. Time Limits will be strictly adhered to and if exceeded the performance may not be placed.

ASSESSMENT & AWARDS

17. Whilst performance in some classes has a competitive element, it is not an examination, and the intention is to offer a performance opportunity in a supportive environment.

18. A category system as recommended by the British and International Federation of Festivals is used as a method of assessment.

Outstanding	An exceptional performance technically and artistically
Distinction	An excellent performance technically and artistically
Commended	A convincing performance technically and artistically
Merit	A capable performance showing some artistically and technical ability
Moderate	A performance showing development of technique and/or communication
Fair	A performance limited in its communication at present

The adjudicators decision is final.

19. No entrant, teacher or interested party may discuss any aspect of the Festival with an Adjudicator before, during or after classes, except at the invitation of the Adjudicator.

20. Every entrant will receive a performance certificate and the adjudicator's comments. After adjudication, certificates and awards will be presented. Awards may be withheld if, in the opinion of the adjudicator, sufficient merit is not shown.

21. Trophies remain the property of the Northampton Festival and should be returned to the Trophies Secretary one month prior to the next Festival.

COPYRIGHT

22. It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure that the provisions of the 1956 and 1988 copyright acts are observed. The music publishers' association has revised its code of practice insofar as own choice works selected from volumes is concerned: when selecting from a publication containing several different works and where the required work is not published separately, one copy may be made for the adjudicator. The copy will be retained by the festival and destroyed after the event.

This permission does not apply to set works nor to making copies for accompanists who must always be given an original copy from which to play. Single copies of items may not be photocopied without the prior permission of the copyright holder.

For further information please visit the British & International Federation of Festivals website: [federation copyright details](#)

23. Our Speech and Drama section is pleased to announce that it has entered into an agreement with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society. This means that performers do not have to seek Copyright permission for any poetry, prose or solo dramatic items performed to a limit of 10 minutes. Performers and teachers will be delighted to know that their participation in this Festival means that authors will be directly reimbursed because of their works being performed at this Festival.

24. 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.

25. Duologues and group dramatic activity are not covered by this agreement and copyright for these items should be sought by performers at time of entry.

26. Performers in Own Choice verse classes will be required to submit a copy to the Adjudicator's Steward stating TITLE – AUTHOR - PUBLISHER.

CHILD LICENSING

Please note that licences are required for primary-aged solo and duologue acting classes only as these will take place on the afternoon of Friday 17th May and may require the entrant to miss a small section of the school day. Please access link below to apply if appropriate: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/children-and-families/children-employment-and-entertainment/child-performance-licences>

Please note that both the music and speech and drama festivals classes, apart from primary-aged acting mentioned above, will be held over the weekend so a performers licence will not be required.

If your child is performing as part of a school group, then the school will cover all aspects of child licensing on your behalf.

The festival will apply for the necessary Body of Persons Approval to cover all children performing in the festival.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



Northampton Festival of the Performing Arts Child Protection Policy

The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech work 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 is 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.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL?

SPONSORSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION

We are a self-financing charitable organisation run by a team of dedicated volunteers. We need help financially, to enable the festival - your festival - to maintain a service of the highest quality and to plan future festivals with confidence.

FRIENDS & SPONSORS

Members of the public are invited to support the festival financially by becoming Friends or Sponsors.

Friends are invited to subscribe a minimum of £20 per annum towards the festival costs.

Sponsors are invited to subscribe a minimum of £30 per annum of which this year, £20 will be used to purchase a voucher to be presented to the winner of a class selected by the Sponsor. These figures are subject to review at the discretion of the Committee. Class Sponsors have the opportunity to select the class for which their award will be made, subject to that class not already being sponsored. If the chosen class has insufficient entries to justify an award, the committee will decide to whom to award the sponsorship.

Sponsors are encouraged to present their own award where possible, but we ask that they make themselves known to the Adjudicator's Steward before the class commences.

Further details may be obtained from the Secretary or the Treasurer.

ENDOWMENT FUND

It has become increasingly difficult for the festival committee to administer the present system of trophies and to bear the insurance costs. It is therefore the Committee's aim to develop an Endowment Fund and to encourage future donors to support the festival by contributing to the fund from which awards can be made, existing events encouraged, and new ones sponsored.

Because of this, the Committee has decided not to accept further gifts of any kind of trophy. If anyone wishes to make a donation, that generosity will be recorded in a list published in the festival programme. This may well be relevant to commemorate someone as a form of memorial.

If this is something which appeals to you please get in touch with the Treasurer or the General Secretary who will be delighted to discuss the possibility with you.

Entries close 4 April 2025 - Enter online via www.northamptonfestival.co.uk



St. Giles

Music

is delighted to
support the



Northampton Festival of the
Performing Arts

Wishing everyone involved
a fantastic time.



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