



Syllabus 2026

**Monday 9 March to
Saturday 21 March**



Established 1925

Registered Charity number 1081411

*Affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals for
Music, Dance and Speech*

President Paul Harris

FRAM GRSM LRAM ARCM MTC Hon TCL

Adjudicators include:

Tom Appleton – School, Adult & Community Choirs

Owen Butcher – Young & Adult Singers

Jessica O’Leary – Strings, String Ensembles & Orchestras

Sarah Watts – Woodwind & Brass,
Wind Ensembles & Bands, Bass Clarinet Workshop

Birgitta Kenyon - Piano

Emma Calvert – Whole Class Ensembles

Emma Manton – Drama & Speech

Closing date for entries: 30 Nov 2025

Please enter online via the Festival website:

<http://norfolkmusic.org.uk>

info@norfolkmusic.org.uk

*Norfolk County Music Festival, 77 Gipsy Lane, Norwich,
NR5 8AX.*

VENUE	WEEK 1	Mon 9 March	Tue 10 March	Wed 11 March	Thurs 12 March	Fri 13 March
Central Baptist Church	AM	WCET	Singers	Strings – Violin/Viola	Strings – Cello	Strings – Cello
	PM	<i>Singers (if demand dictates)</i>	Singers	Cello (PM)	<i>Cello (PM)</i>	<i>Cello (PM)</i>
	EVE		High School Choirs Singers	<i>Adults Masterclass – Evening</i>	String Ensembles Evening	<i>Orchestras</i>
Assembly House		Piano	Piano	Piano	Woodwind/ Brass/ Harp/ Guitar	
St Peter Mancroft				Wind Ensembles and Bands		
VENUE	WEEK 2	Mon 16 March	Tue 17 March	Wed 18 March	Thurs 19 March	Fri 20 March
Kings Centre		School Choirs	School Choirs	School Choirs	School Choirs	School Choirs

Saturday Events:

Drama & Speech – Saturday 14th March – Blake Studio, Norwich School

CHOIRS EAST 2026 – Adult, Youth and Mixed Choirs – Saturday 21st March Octagon Chapel, 21 Colegate, Norwich NR3 1BN.

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Message from the Trustees

The Norfolk County Music Festival (NCMF) is a charitable trust dedicated to providing amateur performers of all ages with opportunities to perform in public, in front of friendly audiences, and to receive positive advice from the professional adjudicators who come to listen.

We provide opportunities for Norfolk's many gifted and talented young people to hone their performance skills as their musical ability or acting develops. At the same time, we organise events where everyone who enjoys learning to play, sing or act is able to show off their skills - and enjoy the applause at the end of their performance.

We are looking forward to welcoming local musicians and actors back to the festival in 2026. If it's your first time at the festival a big welcome from us all.



Choirs / Vocal

SCHOOL CHOIRS

VENUE: King's Centre

DATES: Monday 16th to Friday 20th March – (daytime)

ADJUDICATOR: Tom Appleton

TIMING: 12 mins (max)

Please let us know any days and times that your choir will be unable to attend when you enter the festival. Allocations will be made depending on class, size of choir and travel distance. We will do our best to accommodate any timing requests if you let us know when you enter. At the time of writing, St Andrew's Hall is still closed. At the King's Centre we can accommodate choirs with 120 singers as the stage is smaller. Please contact us if you would like advice with staging.

Limited assistance with the cost of transport for school choirs may be available. Please contact us if costs would otherwise prevent attendance.

Please bring your own music player/speaker if using a backing track, thank you.

In all of the following classes the adjudicator will take into consideration the suitability of the songs selected regarding content, style and vocal range. Contact us if you don't want an award on your certificate.

Own choice of two contrasting songs drawn from any genre or tradition. Schools taking part in CASMA may use the songs from this repertoire.

School Choirs: Children up to and inc. year 2

School Choirs: Children up to and inc. year 6 - Unison

School Choirs: Children up to and inc. year 6 - Two Part

High School Choirs (SCH4) – can perform with school choirs at the King's Centre in the daytime or after Solo Singing at Central Baptist Church on Tuesday 10 March. Please contact us with your preference.

CHOIRS EAST 2026 - ADULT, YOUTH AND MIXED **CHOIRS**

VENUE: *The Octagon Chapel*

DATE: *Saturday 21st March (daytime)*

ADJUDICATOR: *Tom Appleton*

TIMING: *10 mins (max) to include spoken introduction if any.*

This special gathering of choirs celebrates the theme “**One Voice, Many Stories**”. Your performance should include two or three contrasting items which celebrate unity through diverse music - different styles, genres, and languages.

CHOIRS EAST 2026 brings together adult, youth and mixed ensembles, each offering a unique perspective through music of diverse styles and traditions.

Please bring your own music player/speaker if you are using a backing track.

Guided by adjudicator Tom Appleton, each session will also include an interactive element, inviting both choirs and audience to take part in something fresh and uplifting together. Expect an inclusive, creative atmosphere, with surprises along the way, as voices blend to create something greater than the sum of their parts.

When booking, please specify choir type, thank you:

Youth Choir (ACH2)

Adult Choir (ACH3)

Mixed Choir - Youth and Adult (ACH4)

SINGING - ADULTS

VENUE: *Central Baptist Church*

DATE: *Tuesday 10th March (daytime and evening)*

ADJUDICATOR: **Owen Butcher**

TIMING: *See below*

Material from any musical genre including rock, pop, musical theatre etc. Pre-recorded tracks may be used. An Official Accompanist is available (contact us for details) but singers are encouraged to provide their own accompanist.

18 years and over. Own choice of music.

Solo (SA1)	7 mins (max)
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Vocal duet (SA2)	8 mins (max)
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Vocal Trio or quartet (SA3)	10 mins (max)
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Recital Class (RC/SA)	(See page 28 for further details)
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YOUNG SINGERS

VENUE: Central Baptist Church

DATE: Tuesday 10th March (daytime and evening). Plus Monday 9th if numbers dictate.

ADJUDICATOR: Owen Butcher

TIMING: See below

Material from any musical genre including rock, pop, musical theatre. Pre-recorded tracks may be used. Please specify your choice of genre e.g. Recital, Art Song, Rock, Pop etc. An Official Accompanist is available (please ask for details) but singers are encouraged to provide their own accompanist.

Please note, changing into costumes at the venue is no longer permitted by Child Performance Licensing. If you are performing wearing a costume, please arrive in your costume, thank you.

Primary: under 12 yrs (YS1) 4 mins (max)

Secondary: 12 to 18 yrs (YS2) 4 mins (max)

Vocal Duets: under 12 yrs (YS3) 6 mins (max)

Vocal Duets: 12 to 18 yrs (YS4) 6 mins (max)

Vocal Duet - any age (YS5) 6 mins (max)

Recital Class (RC/YS) (See page 28 for further details)

Musical Theatre (YS6) 12 mins (max)

A performance that includes acting, singing and limited dancing!
Costumes allowed and encouraged. Please state number of and age of players on entry, so that we can programme them correctly.

Ensembles

All ensembles may include teacher / adult accompaniment.

For all ensembles please give approximate number of performers.

STRING ENSEMBLES

VENUE: *Central Baptist Church*

DATES: *Thursday 12th March (evening)*

ADJUDICATOR: *Jessica O'Leary*

TIMING: *See below*

Own choice of one or more pieces.

Junior Strings (E1)	8 mins (max)
Intermediate Strings (E2)	12 mins (max)
Senior String Ensemble/Orchestra (E3)	16 mins (max)

ORCHESTRAS (O)

VENUE: *Central Baptist Church*

DATE: *Friday 13th March (evening)*

ADJUDICATOR: *Jessican O'Leary*

TIMING: *see below*

Full Orchestra (not String Orchestra)

Own choice of one or more pieces.

Primary School Orchestra (O1)	10 mins (max)
Secondary School Orchestra (O2)	15 mins (max)
Orchestra – Open Class (O3)	15 mins (max)

JAZZ/ROCK/POP/FUNK ENSEMBLES

VENUE: *Not running this year – sorry - will be back in 2027!*

DATE:

ADJUDICATOR:

TIMING: 20 mins (max)

Jazz/Pop/Rock/Funk Ensembles (J5)

3 or more players of any age. Please state number of people when booking.

Where appropriate, credit will be given to performances which include improvisation, whether it be paraphrasing of the written material or derived from the harmonic framework of the music.



PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES

VENUE: *Not running this year – sorry - will be back in 2027!*

DATE:

ADJUDICATOR:

TIMING: *See below*

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES - 3 or more players.

Own choice of one or more pieces.

Junior Percussion Ensemble (PC1) 8 mins (max)

Intermediate Percussion Ensemble (PC2) 10 mins (max)

Senior Percussion Ensemble (PC3) 12 mins (max)

Recital Class (RC/PC) (See page 28 for further details)



FAMILY MUSIC MAKING

VENUE, DATE(S) and ADJUDICATOR will depend upon the type of music/instruments – please tell us this with your entry. The most appropriate venue and adjudicator will be selected.

Family Music (FG)

12 mins (max)

Own choice of one or more pieces.

Any standard/age mix.



GUITAR ENSEMBLES

VENUE: *Assembly House*

DATE: *Thursday 12th March (daytime)*

ADJUDICATOR: *tbc*

Acoustic and/or electric guitars are welcome to enter.

Guitar Ensemble (G6)

12 mins (max)

Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET)

VENUE: Central Baptist Church

DATE: Monday 9th March (daytime)

ADJUDICATOR: Emma Calvert

TIMING: 8 mins (max)

This class caters for whole class instrumental tuition which takes place in many Norfolk schools. The instruments played and music performed is your own choice and groups of any standard are encouraged to participate.

If using a backing track please bring your own music player and speaker with you, thank you.

Schools are encouraged to perform live in Norwich, but a video option may be available if desired, particularly for those with special circumstances or those located some distance from Norwich. Please contact us for further details.



WIND ENSEMBLES AND BANDS

Including BRASS

VENUE: *St Peter Mancroft*

DATE: *Wednesday 11th March (evening)*

ADJUDICATOR: *Sarah Watts*

TIMING: *See below*

One instrument to a part. 3 or more players.

Own choice of one or more pieces.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Junior Wind Ensemble (EW1)	8 mins (max)
Intermediate Wind Ensemble (EW2)	12 mins (max)
Senior Wind Ensemble (EW3)	16 mins (max)

BRASS ENSEMBLE

Junior Brass Ensemble (EW5) Up to 12 players	8 mins (max)
Intermediate Brass Ensemble (EW6) Up to 12 players	12 mins (max)
Senior Brass Ensemble (EW7)	16 mins (max)

BANDS INCLUDING BRASS BANDS

Junior Band (E19)	8 mins (max)
Intermediate Band (E20)	10 mins (max)
Senior Band (E21)	12 mins (max)

Solo, Duet & Trio Performances

(for larger groups please see ENSEMBLES).

BRASS

VENUE: Assembly House

DATE: Thursday 12th March (daytime)

ADJUDICATOR: Sarah Watts

TIMING: See below

For all brass instruments. A performer may play more than once in a class if offering multiple instruments. A backing track may be used as an alternative to piano accompaniment, please bring your own music player and speaker.

SOLOS

8 mins (max)

Grade 1 - 2 Standard (B1)

Grade 3 - 4 Standard (B2)

Grade 5 - 6 Standard (B3)

Grade 7+ Standard (B4)

Mini Recital Class (B5) 11 to 18 years

Two contrasting pieces. A brief introduction is welcomed.

BRASS DUETS

8 mins (max)

Any combination of instruments.

Grade 1 - 2 Standard (B6)

Grade 3 - 4 Standard (B7)

Grade 5 - 6 Standard (B8)

Grade 7 + Standard (B9)

Pupil & Teacher (B10)

Recital Class (RC/B)

(See page 28 for further details)

BRASS TRIOS

Please see ENSEMBLES.

GUITAR

VENUE: Assembly House

DATE: Thursday 12th March (daytime)

ADJUDICATOR: tbc

TIMING: see below

Acoustic and/or electric guitars are welcome to enter.

GUITAR SOLO

Grade 1 – 2 Standard (G1)	4 mins (max)
Grade 3 - 4 Standard (G2)	5 mins (max)
Grade 5 - 6 Standard (G3)	6 mins (max)
Grade 7 + Standard (G4)	8 mins (max)
Recital Class (RC/G)	(See page 28 for further details)

GUITAR DUETS

Duet (G5)	6 mins (max)
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Guitar Ensemble (G6) – See ENSEMBLES section

JAZZ, ROCK, POP or FUNK

VENUE: *Not running this year – sorry, will be back in 2027!*

DATE:

ADJUDICATOR:

TIMING: 8 mins (max)

SOLO, DUET & TRIO JAZZ, POP, ROCK or FUNK PERFORMANCE

Any instrument, one piece of music. Up to 3 players/singers. A backing track or accompanist may be used. Where appropriate, credit will be given to performances which include improvisation, whether it be paraphrasing of the written material or derived from the harmonic framework of the music.

Junior level (J1)

Intermediate level (J2)

Senior level (J3)

Recital Class (RC/J) (See page 28 for further details)

PERCUSSION

VENUE: *Not running this year – sorry, will be back in 2027!*

DATE:

ADJUDICATOR:

TIMING: 8 mins (max)

INDIVIDUAL, DUET or TRIO PERCUSSION PERFORMANCE

Junior (PC4)

Intermediate (PC5)

Senior (PC6)

For Percussion Ensembles see page 12.

PIANO

VENUE: Assembly House

DATES: Monday 9th March to Wednesday 11th March

ADJUDICATOR: Birgitta Kenyon

TIMING: See below

All Piano classes are own choice of music and *one piece only*. **Exceptions are the Gwendoline Lee Memorial Prize (PN1) which is one set piece from a choice of two** (see below) and the **Mini Recital Classes/ Recital classes** which allow more than one piece.

There is a chance to come and get a feel for the piano before the class begins.

1. SOLO PIANO COMPETITION

THE GWENDOLINE LEE MEMORIAL PRIZE - 14 years and under (PN1)

The prize is a music voucher donated by the Norwich Centre of the Incorporated Society of Musicians. The prize will be awarded by the Adjudicator.

The two set pieces for this year are given below, please choose one of these. You will be expected to play only the piece you have chosen:

To A Wild Rose by Edward MacDowell

The Buccaneer by Malcolm Arnold.

2. SOLO PIANO CLASSES

i. BEGINNERS

Primary school age beginners (PN2a) 4 mins (max)

Secondary school/sixth form age beginners (PN2b) 4 mins (max)

Adult beginners – over 18s (PN28) 4 mins (max)

ii. GRADE CLASSES

16 yrs & under: Grade 1 - 2 Standard (PN3) 4 mins (max)

16 yrs & under: Grade 3 - 4 Standard (PN4) 4 mins (max)

17 yrs & under: Grade 5 - 6 Standard (PN5) 6 mins (max)

18 yrs & under: Grade 7 - 8 Standard (PN6) 10 mins (max)

iii. AGE CLASSES

5 yrs & under (PN7)	3 mins (max)
6 & 7 yrs (PN8)	3 mins (max)
8 & 9 yrs (PN9)	4 mins (max)
10 & 11 yrs (PN10)	4 mins (max)
12 & 13 yrs (PN11)	4 mins (max)
14 & 15 yrs (PN12)	5 mins (max)
16 & 17 yrs (PN13)	5 mins (max)

iv. POPULAR OR LIGHT MUSIC

12 yrs & under (PN14)	4 mins (max)
13 yrs & over (PN15)	5 mins (max)

v. ORIGINAL OWN WORK (PN16) 6 mins (max)

The piece does not have to be written down. Adjudication only, no award.

Please note the **Composition and Own Original Work (CP)** class provides a more formal approach to original own work, see page 30 for more details.

vi. MINI RECITAL CLASSES

Own choice of two contrasting pieces.
A brief introduction would be welcomed.

11 yrs & under (PN17)	8 mins (max)
12 & 13 yrs (PN18)	8 mins (max)
14 & 15 yrs (PN19)	10 mins (max)
16 & 17 yrs (PN20)	10 mins (max)

vii. BAROQUE, ROMANTIC, 20th CENTURY or CONTEMPORARY MUSIC (PN21). Please specify category of music on entry.

8 mins (max)

viii. POST GRADE 8 STANDARD (PN26) 12 mins (max)

ix. DIPLOMA ABRSM and above (PN27) 12 mins (max)

x. RECITAL CLASS (RC/PN) (See page 28 for further details)

3. PIANO DUETS

5 mins (max)

Under 11 yrs (PN29)

11-18 yrs (PN30)

Over 18s (PN31)

2 Friends any age (PN32)

Pupil & Teacher (PN33)

Family Duet (PN34)

4. PIANO TRIOS

5 mins (max)

Trios (PN35)

STRINGS

For larger groups, String Orchestras etc. please see **ENSEMBLES**.

VIOLIN and VIOLA

VENUE: Central Baptist Church

DATE: Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th March

ADJUDICATOR: Jessica O'Leary

TIMING: See below

CELLO and DOUBLE BASS

VENUE: Central Baptist Church

DATE: Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th March

ADJUDICATOR: Jessica O'Leary

TIMING: See below

STRINGS SOLOS

Please specify instrument.

One piece with piano accompaniment, own choice (unless specified).

Beginners: Pre Grade 1 (ST1) 4 mins (max)

Primary: Pre Grade 1 - Grade 1 (ST2) 4 mins (max)

Elementary: Grades 1 - 2 (ST3) 5 mins (max)

Junior: Grade 3 - 4 (ST4) 5 mins (max)

Intermediate: Grade 4 - 5 (ST5) 5 mins (max)

Intermediate Concerto: Grade 4 - 6 (ST6) 7 mins (max)

One movement from a concerto.

Intermediate Mini Recital Class: Grade 4 - 6 (ST7) 10 mins (max)

Up to 3 pieces, a balanced programme, well presented.

Higher: Grade 6 - 7 (ST8) 9 mins (max)

Advanced: Grade 8 (ST9) 9 mins (max)

Unaccompanied Bach (ST10) 6 mins (max)

One movement only please.

Advanced Sonata, grade 8 (ST11) 9 mins (max)

Advanced Concerto, grade 8 (ST12)

9 mins (max)

One movement only.

Recital Class (RC/ST) (See page 28 for further details)

ADULT LEARNERS

Grade 1 – 5, any bowed string instrument: (ST49a) 5 mins (max)

Grade 5+ (please see strings mini masterclass, below)

STRING DUETS

String Duets – strings only (ST53)

5 mins (max)

STRINGS MINI MASTERCLASS

With Jessica O’Leary

DATE: Wednesday 11th March (evening)

VENUE: Central Baptist Church

For adult learners to perform a piece of their choosing and receive specialist individual help, advice and feedback. No adjudication.

Any Bowed String Instrument: Grade 5+ (ST54) 10 mins (max)

STRINGS CELLO WORKSHOP

Sorry, no cello workshop this year.

DATE:

VENUE:

For Grade 5+ players

WOODWIND

Woodwind solos, duets, trios and quartets.

For larger groups, bands etc. please see *ENSEMBLES*.

VENUE: *Assembly House*

DATES: *Thursday 12th March (daytime)*

ADJUDICATOR: *Sarah Watts*

TIMING: *See below*

For all Woodwind instruments. A performer may play more than once in a class if offering multiple instruments.

Grade 1 - 2 Standard (W1)	3 mins (max)
Grade 3 - 4 Standard (W2)	4 mins (max)
Grade 5 - 6 Standard (W3)	5 mins (max)
Grade 7+ Standard (W4)	8 mins (max)

MINI RECITAL CLASSES

Own choice of two contrasting pieces.

A brief introduction would be welcomed.

Mini Recital Class 11 Yrs & Under (W5)	8 mins (max)
Mini Recital Class 12 - 13 Yrs (W6)	8 mins (max)
Mini Recital Class 14 - 15 Yrs (W7)	8 mins (max)
Mini Recital Class 16 - 17 Yrs (W8)	8 mins (max)

WOODWIND DUETS/ TRIOS / QUARTETS

Any combination of Instruments. Own choice of music.

Grade 1 – 2 Standard (W9)	3 mins (max)
Grade 3 - 4 Standard (W10)	4 mins (max)
Grade 5 – 6 Standard (W11)	5 mins (max)
Grade 7 + Standard (W12)	8 mins (max)
Pupil(s) and Teacher (W13)	5 mins (max)

Recital Class (RC/W) (See page 28 for further details)

Woodwind Mini Masterclass (W14)	10 mins (max)
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***New* Bass Clarinet Workshop with Sarah Watts.** The workshop is open to bass clarinet players of all ages and levels (amateur and professional) and also to anybody who is curious or interested in bass clarinet. The session will be 90 minutes long. Come and pick up some technique tips in a group warm up session. This will be followed by a short ensemble session playing through some accessible fun works. There will also be an opportunity to answer questions. To conclude Sarah will perform a short 20 minute recital at the end of the session.

Dr Watts specialises in low clarinets and has gained an international reputation as an artist, teacher and researcher. She has performed and taken masterclasses at universities and conservatoires in the UK, Ireland, Asia, Europe and the Americas. Sarah's PhD was on bass clarinet multiphonics.

Dr Sarah Watts teaches at Sheffield University in the capacity of **Performance Lead - Music at the University of Sheffield.**

Harp

VENUE: Assembly House

DATE: Thursday 12th March (daytime)

ADJUDICATOR: tbc

TIMING: 10 mins (max)

Own choice of music. Solo, Duet, Trio or Ensemble.
Please state grade/equivalent.

Other Instruments

Recorders, Hand Bells, Ocarinas, Ukuleles etc

VENUE, DATE/S and ADJUDICATOR will depend upon the instrument and group.

TIMING: 6 mins (max)

Own choice of music. Please give as much detail as possible with your entry and we will allocate the instrument/group to the most appropriate venue and adjudicator. If in doubt please contact the Festival Events Officer.

We will provide a piano. Entrants will be expected to provide any other instruments required.

Please note that we will consider any instrument or class for inclusion in the festival - just contact us. If there are enough entries then we will endeavour to provide a specialist adjudicator. In the meantime please use Category OX – Other Instruments but please state your instrument so that the most appropriate adjudicator is chosen for you.

RECITAL CLASSES

Entry is for solo performers only, with piano accompaniment where appropriate. Minimum standard grade 8. There is a single category of entry with no age segregation.

Your own choice of music, 20 mins (max) *including tuning and setting up*.

Notes

Performers should plan their programme so it is balanced, showing variety and contrast of style and mood. Stage presence and presentation of the music is an important part of performance and will be part of the evaluation.

Please state your instrument so we can programme your performance on the correct day.

ADULT LEARNERS

VENUE: *Depends on instrument*

DATE: *Depends on instrument*

ADJUDICATOR: *Depends on instrument*

TIMING: *5 mins (max)*

Open to adult learners (over 18) of any instrument, performing solo or in a duet, trio or quartet (music teachers are allowed to take part /accompany).

An opportunity to play for an audience and receive constructive feedback.

Your performance will be programmed on the appropriate day for your instrument.

Composition & Own Original Work

VENUE: *tbc*

DATE: *tbc*

ADJUDICATOR: *tbc*

TIMING: *10 mins (max)*

Composition solo (CP1)

Composition more than 1 instrument (CP2)

Entrants can produce their own original composition for any combination of instruments, which may include soloists.

GCSE and A Level composition welcome. Helpful feedback given on how to improve your piece.



Drama and Speech

VENUE: Blake Studio, Norwich School

DATE: Saturday 14 March (daytime)

ADJUDICATOR: Emma Manton

TIMING: 5 mins (max)

Key Stage 2

Key Stage 3

Key Stage 4

Adults

What to Perform

- You may perform monologues, duologues, or verse/prose selections taken from published plays, recognised anthologies, published poetry collections, folktales, myths, short stories, or public-domain works (including those listed in the LAMDA or Trinity syllabuses).
- You may also use contemporary, classical, or original material.
- Verse or prose should be treated as performance text—delivered as a dramatic or narrative piece rather than a simple reading.
- New writing must be your own or created by a member of your performing group. If one performer wrote the piece, credit that person when introducing it and ensure you have their permission to use it. Collaborative devised work should list all contributors.

Advice to performers

- Time your piece carefully to stay within the limit.
- You must learn your lines as you will not have your script on stage
- KS2 and KS3 entrants may have a prompt seated close to the front of the audience (prompting should be discreet and only if necessary).
- You may enter, exit, and move freely during your piece, but keep movements within the performance area.
- Devised work may be stylised and may include physical theatre and low-risk movement.
- Full costumes aren't required, but you may wear them if you wish. Please note there is no changing allowed at the venue because of Child Performance Licensing and Safeguarding. You must arrive fully dressed in your costume, thank you.

- A table and chairs will be provided—no other stage furniture may be used.
- Props should be small, hand-held, and safe for stage use (no sharp objects, weapons, flames, or hazardous items).
- Performances will be under general lighting only.
- Music may only be used as part of a devised piece where it is an intentional stylistic choice (e.g. physical theatre) and may not be used in other categories. Where music is used entrants are responsible for this e.g. bringing a speaker and starting/ending it as this is not the responsibility of the festival organisers.
- Before you begin, introduce yourself, your piece, and the writer (or say “original work” for devised/new writing).
- Please freeze or hold a clear moment of stillness at the end of your performance so the finish is obvious.
- Keep things simple so the focus stays on your acting.

Information

Own Choice

Music performed in the Festival is your own choice (except the Gwendoline Lee prize class in piano). **Please remember to bring a copy of what you are playing on the day for the adjudicator.** Photocopies are acceptable but must be destroyed after the performance.

Awards

Awards will not be announced from the platform.

Programme

The programme will be published on the Festival website in February.

Shorten Cup

The Shorten Cup was given by the founder of the Festival and is awarded for instrumental chamber music to encourage small ensemble playing. The Cup will be awarded to a group as decided by an adjudicator. The instrumental class will be selected and announced when all Festival entries have been received.

VENUES

The Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

Central Baptist Church, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 3AP

King's Centre, 63-75 King St, Norwich NR1 1PH

Norwich School, Blake Studio, 71a The CI, Norwich NR1 4DD

Octagon Chapel, 21 Colegate, Norwich NR3 1BN

St Peter Mancroft Church, Hayhill, Norwich, NR2 1QQ

FESTIVAL RULES

- 1 The object of the Festival is to raise the standard of amateur music making and acting by giving practitioners the opportunity to perform in public and under concert conditions. They benefit from professional feedback on their work and from the opportunity to hear their fellow performers. An amateur is someone who does not derive his/her living from the music profession.
- 2 **Entry fees cannot be returned as we book our venues based on the number of people who have registered to perform.**
- 3 **Copies of all performance material MUST be provided for the adjudicator. Photocopies are acceptable, providing they are destroyed immediately after the performance.**
- 4 **Parents can only take photos or videos of their child performing solo. No photography or videography of other children is allowed, including when your child is performing as part of a group with others.**
- 5 The Festival is open to residents of Norfolk and to such others as may be admitted by the Festival Committee.
- 6 **An official Festival photographer will be capturing images / video / audio which may be used on our website, on social media and in promotional material. Should parents or teachers not wish their participants included in any photographs, Press or video recording they should notify us in advance.**
- 7 No one may discuss any aspect of the Festival with an Adjudicator except at the invitation of the Adjudicator.
- 8 Festival entries should be made via our website by **30 Nov 2025**. All applications must be accompanied by the appropriate fee.
- 9 The Festival reserves the right to refuse entry without assigning any reason.
- 10 Entrants will perform only once in each class except for class PN33 (piano teacher and pupil duet) and in the woodwind classes if performing on different instruments.
- 11 Whilst every effort will be made to adhere to the advertised programme the Festival reserves the right to make modifications.
- 12 Pieces will be heard in full if played within the stated time limit.

- 13 Normally, participants will not be allowed to perform at any time other than that programmed for their class.
- 14 The winner of the previous year's Gwendoline Lee Memorial Prize is ineligible to enter this year.

PLEASE NOTE

All details will be published in the Festival Programme, which will be available on our website norfolkmusic.org.uk in February 2026.

CERTIFICATES AND ADJUDICATION

Norfolk County Music Festival is not an examination – the emphasis is on enjoyment and learning, therefore the adjudicators use their time to talk and to explain how you can improve your performance.

In classes where certificates are awarded we use the following grading system:

Outstanding Performance

Highly Commended

Commended Performance

The adjudicator may use his or her discretion to award a **Commended Plus** or a **Highly Commended Plus** where the performance merits this but is not *quite* the standard for the higher category. Feedback from adjudicators tells us that they appreciate this flexibility and they usually explain their decision making to entrants.

ACCOMPANISTS

The following accompanists are happy to be contacted by any entrant and have been used in the past on Festival days. You are, of course, free to choose your own accompanist.

David Neil Jones: tel 07970 279209

Francis Fox: 07949 472880
francisfoxpianist@gmail.com

Please note that all entrants are required to make their own arrangements with accompanists. However, all entrants using the above accompanists will not be charged for their time on Festival days only.

Following guidance from the British and International Federation of Festivals we no longer carry out DBS checks on any accompanists used during the festival.

BACKING TRACKS

If you are using a backing track, please bring your music player/phone/speaker with you. We do not provide any equipment for you to play the backing track through, so you should bring your own, thank you.

ENTRIES

Entry Fees 2026

Individual, Duet and Trio Entries	£17.50
Recital Classes	£23.00
Small choirs or groups (up to 12 performers)	£31.00
Medium choirs or groups (13 to 50 performers)	£46.00
Large choirs or groups (51 to 100 performers)	£72.00
Extra large choirs or groups (101+)	£82.00
Whole Class Ensemble Tuition	£46.00
Mini masterclass	£17.50
Introducing the Bass Clarinet Workshop	£17.50

Please contact us if you are a Pupil Premium family to discuss fees, or if financial hardship would prevent you taking part in the Festival: info@norfolkmusic.org.uk

All details confirming entry into the Festival will be published in the Programme and on our website in February.

Entries for the Festival can be made **online** at: <http://norfolkmusic.org.uk/>

Festival entry closes on 30 November 2025

Payment. Full payment should be made at time of entry, preferably via our website: <http://norfolkmusic.org.uk/>

Payment can also be made by cheque, payable to 'Norfolk County Music Festival' or by BACS transfer to our account with Barclays Bank in the name of Norfolk County Music Festival, sort code 20-62-53, account number 10815519, using the applicant's surname as a reference.

Entrants will not be allowed to participate in the Festival if payments have not been received.

FESTIVAL CONTACT INFORMATION

For all enquiries please contact the **Festival Manager:**

Michelle Bagnall

Norfolk County Music Festival

c/o 77 Gipsy Lane, Norwich, NR5 8AX

Tel: 07772 959689

Email: info@norfolkmusic.org.uk

Web: norfolkmusic.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for news and live coverage during the Festival:

[@NCMFestival](#)

