

CHIPPING NORTON MUSIC FESTIVAL



promoting confidence through performance

Friday 6th - Sunday 22nd March



SYLLABUS

Closing date for entries: Sunday 1st February 2026

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From the Committee

We are delighted to present the syllabus for the **114th Festival**. We hope that you will be inspired to participate in one of our many classes (over 140 are on offer) or will support those who do by joining the audience for classes, masterclasses and concerts. We have a regularly updated website and now have an **on-line system for entries** (see p14).

The Festival continues its non-competitive tradition to encourage everyone to participate although we do have some awards for exceptional performances. All are welcome and we hope you will experience the friendship and support that the Festival aims to provide. If you are new to our Festival then do read our guide (see p13). We have reviewed part of the syllabus and have streamlined some sections and added new classes – if you have any questions please contact us.

Please note the following events during the Festival fortnight:

Friday 6th March – the Festival opens with the popular **Youth Band Challenge**.

Tuesday 10th/Thursday 19th March – Concert - Adderbury Ensemble

Thursday 12th March – Concert - Young Performers' Recital

Saturday 14th March – Concert – North Cotswold Chamber Choir

Sunday 15th March – Concert – Tom Poster & Elena Urioste

Saturday 21st March – the **Festival Concert** including highlights of the fortnight.

Sunday 22nd March – Concert – Family Concert

We have a fantastic team of professional adjudicators lined up and they are at the heart of our Festival, offering advice and encouragement so enthusiastically. If you would like to perform something unusual or are unsure about which class to enter, then contact us.

Our enormous gratitude also goes to the team of volunteers, accompanists, Friends, people, and businesses in the town who support us as well as the parents and teachers who support and encourage our participants. If you would like to get involved in the Festival in some capacity, or have any feedback on what we offer, do please contact any Committee member.

Follow (and share) us on social media on **@ChippyMusFest** and, above all, join in – here's looking forward to another great fortnight!

The Committee

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Festival Contacts.

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Secretary

Philippa Furlong

☎ 07989 736715 ✉ philippafurlong@gmail.com

Committee

Members

Nick Edwards, Peter Hunt, Pippa Phillips, Jo Rigg, Julia Dyer, Abby Davies, Kate Higgins, Philippa Furlong.

Festival Advisors

Tish Nicoll, Lizzie Soden, Lydia Tomita

Entries' Secretaries

Piano (Classes 1–24)

Speech & Drama (Classes 25–71)

Choirs (Classes 72–77)

Folk

Youth Band Challenge (Class 78)

Vocal, Instrumental & Ensembles (Classes 79–152)

Young Performers' Recital (Class 153)

Philippa Furlong ☎ 07989 736715

Pippa Phillips ☎ 07831 355689

Sarah Cobb ☎ 07836 518868

Liz Teall ☎ 07969 132215

Vicki Pike ☎ 01608 658602

Jo Rigg ☎ 07969 413886

Philippa Furlong ☎ 07989 736715

Notes:

- Entries should be made online at cnmf.org.uk via cnmf.runmyfestival.net (see p14 for details)
- All postal communications should be sent to: 50 The Leys, Chipping Norton OX7 5HH
- For entry queries by email ✉ entries@cnmf.org.uk.



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Provisional Timetable

Friday 6 March

Evening	Youth Band Challenge	Martin Wallington	p26	The Theatre
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Saturday 7 March

Morning	Junior Choirs	Martin Wallington	p24	Town Hall
Afternoon/eve	Senior Choirs	" "		Town Hall

Sunday 8 March

Morning/Aft	Guitars	Craig Ogden	p34/35	Town Hall
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Monday 9 March

Aft/Eve	Woodwind & Brass	Nicholas Garman	p30/31	Town Hall
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Tuesday 10 March

Evening	Concert	Adderbury Ensemble	p22	Town Hall
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Wednesday 11 March

Afternoon	Children's Workshop	Lizzie Soden/Lydia Tomita	p21	Town Hall
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Thursday 12 March

Afternoon	Children's Workshop	Lizzie Soden/Lydia Tomita	p21	Town Hall
Evening	Concert	Young Performers' Recital	p40	Town Hall

Friday 13 March

Aft/Eve	Piano	James Kirby	p15/16	Town Hall
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Saturday 14 March

Morn/Aft	Piano	James Kirby	p15/16	Town Hall
Evening	Concert	North Cotswold Chamber Choir	p21	Town Hall

Sunday 15 March

Evening	Concert	Tom Poster & Elena Urioste	p22	Town Hall
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Monday 16 March

Aft/Eve	Strings	Fiona McLean Buechel	p32/33	Town Hall
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Tuesday 17 March

Morn/Aft	Speech & Drama	Rebecca Vines	p17/20	Town Hall
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Wednesday 18 March

Morn/Aft	Speech & Drama	Rebecca Vines	p17/20	Town Hall
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Thursday 19 March

Evening	Concert	Adderbury Ensemble	p22	Town Hall
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Friday 20 March

Evening	Senior Vocal	Maria Jagusz	p29	Town Hall
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Friday 20 March

Evening	Folk	Paul Bryan	p23	The Chequers
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Saturday 21 March

Morning	Junior Vocal	Maria Jjagusz	p27	Town Hall
Evening	Festival Concert (highlights from the Festival)		p23	Town Hall

Sunday 22 March

Afternoon	Concert	Family Concert	p22	Town Hall
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Notes: Timings are indicative. Dates are provisional and may change depending on numbers.

General Rules & Information

PURPOSE

The Festival is an opportunity for performers of all standards to perform publicly in a friendly environment with the benefit of comments from eminent, professional adjudicators.

ENTRIES (by 1st February 2026)

- We have an on-line system for 2026 (see page 14 about how to do this and there is also an online guide to download from the website).
- Details of pieces to be performed must be included –TBA is acceptable but needs to be confirmed no later than 14 days before the start of the festival.
- Payment can be made by bank transfer (see p14) Paypal or by cheque. A single payment is acceptable for multiple classes/entries.
- **Changes after the closing date will only be accepted for confirmation of pieces as above.**
- **Entries received after the submission date will not be accepted.**
- **Time limits must be strictly observed., and includes any introductions.**
- The Committee reserves the right to limit the number of entries, which will be accepted in the order of receipt.
- Classes may be split, combined or otherwise rearranged if necessary.
- Please ensure that the piece you are performing is of the appropriate level for the class entered. If in doubt contact the relevant Entry Secretary on page 4.
- Time limits in all classes include any introductions so please ensure you meet these criteria

Entries will be confirmed with the date, time and location of the class no later than seven days before the start of the Festival. Please check times and dates carefully.

OFFICIAL ACCOMPANIST

Due to limited demand in recent years, there will be no official accompanist this year. Performers should make their own arrangements for accompanists. You are welcome to bring your own, or we recommend the following local accompanists:

- Philippa Furlong - 07989 736715 - philippafurlong@gmail.com Prefer grade 5 level or below. Available after 2pm.
- Susie Allan - 07977 126096 - susieallan@mac.com I'm happy to work with anybody that may need me.
- Chris Brown – cbrown@chippingnortonschool.org
- Helen Payne - 07968 803045 – helen.payne044@gmail.com Instrumental (not singers) Available from 4pm
- Helen Porter - Helen Porter - 07807 574/570 nelliemelba53@gmail.com Any grade or style, Availability varies day by day, weekends possible. (Brailes)
- Lydia Tomita - 07572 402232 (Whatsapp best), lydia@cotswoldpianist.com

You must expect to pay a fee to your accompanist for your festival performance and for any rehearsals you arrange. Please book your accompanist early, and by 2nd February 2026 at the latest to allow Festival Timetables to be prepared. It will not be possible to organise an accompanist on the day.

General Rules & Information

OWN CHOICE ITEMS, COPYRIGHT AND MUSIC

As you come up to perform, a copy of the music or text must be handed to the adjudicator's steward prior to the performance. The Music Publishers' Association Code of Practice on Photocopying Copyright Works makes a concession for copying own choice pieces for use by the adjudicator and official accompanist, provided that the participant has already purchased his/her own copy and that the photocopy is retained and destroyed by the Festival immediately after the event. **Participants will not be allowed to perform using photocopies.**

BACKING TRACK MUSIC

- Live accompaniment is preferred - see our list of pianists available – but we recognise this is not always possible
- Each performer is fully responsible for bringing the track and the means to play it and for setting up quickly when they come to perform. We will provide a power socket
- Tracks must be downloaded not streamed as we cannot guarantee suitable wifi.
- Each performer is responsible for ensuring they have appropriate permission/licence to use the track
- Track should not contain the instrument/part being played by the performer

PHOTOGRAPHY, AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING

Due to child protection and copyright restrictions, the use of cameras and recording equipment (any audio/video including mobile phones) is not permitted during performance. This is because it can be disruptive. The Festival cannot be liable for anything uploaded to social media. The Festival photographer may be present at sessions and concerts, although images will only be used for the promotion of the Festival through the press or on the Festival website. The Festival may choose to share images with participants for private use only. Press photographers may also be present during the Festival by prior arrangement with the Committee.

Further information will be provided to participants with acknowledgement slips. This is in line with recommendations from the British & International Federation of Festivals – members of the audience that fail to observe these restrictions may be asked to leave.

SAFEGUARDING

The Committee intends that the Festival should continue to grow and flourish in a happy, friendly atmosphere, giving the opportunity for children and adults to have a platform for performance, and be given helpful, constructive criticism, advice and encouragement from professional adjudicators. The Committee takes all reasonable steps to promote a safe environment, but the responsibility for the safety and well-being of children under 18 years of age and vulnerable adults rests with respective parents, guardians and teachers. Further information will be provided to participants with acknowledgement slips and the full policy can be found on our website www.cnmf.org.uk or provided on request.



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ADJUDICATION



The British and International Federation of Festivals has adopted a new marking scheme which is being introduced to all their many affiliated festivals around the world. CNMF, as a member of BIFF, has adopted this scheme for grading from 2025 onwards. Full details are shown below. This does mean that grades awarded will not be directly comparable to previous festivals. If you have any questions, please ask a committee member.

Adjudicators are invited to make comments on the performances, and each participant will receive the adjudicator's written comments. **Performances will be placed in categories as follows (except classes 16, 87, 104, and 116), although comments and categories will not be disclosed publicly.**

BIFF Marking Scheme - MUSIC

Grades will be in accordance with the BIFF scheme for each discipline. This is an opportunity to receive appreciative and constructive feedback.

Marking Band	Descriptors	Criteria
Developing	A performance demonstrating an awareness of technical skills, requiring more consistency & artistry.	An inconsistent performance with an overall need for accuracy and /or continuity and artistic development.
Progressing	A performance showing development of technique and/or communication and commitment.	A generally secure performance in notes and rhythm at a reasonable tempo but as yet with limited attention to detail, tonal qualities, and style.
Merit	A competent performance, showing some artistic awareness and/or technical ability.	Mostly fluent and accurate, with some awareness of tone and style, but requiring a sense of communication and performance.
Commended	A convincing performance technically & artistically, with increasing stylistic & communication skills.	Confident, with clear evidence of tonal and stylistic qualities and a developing awareness of communication and performance, although there may be moments of imprecision.
Honours	An excellent performance, demonstrating fluent technical and artistic skills with emerging individuality.	Assured and expressive, demonstrating a high level of technical security, imagination and stylistic insight and with a real sense of communication and performance, although small blemishes may be present.
Outstanding	An impressive performance technically and artistically, displaying spontaneity & clear individuality.	A stimulating, imaginative and persuasive performance, showing stylistic flair, interpretative insight, poise and unobtrusive technical command.
Exceptional	A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic individuality	An astonishingly impressive performance displaying effortless technical control and superlative individuality in its artistry, and profound musical insight.

BIFF Marking Scheme – SPEECH & DRAMA and MUSICAL THEATRE

Marking Band	Descriptors	Criteria
Developing	A performance demonstrating an awareness of technical skills, requiring more consistency & artistry.	An inconsistent performance with an overall need for accuracy and/or continuity and artistic development.
Progressing	A performance showing development of technique and/or communication and commitment.	A generally secure performance in need of artistic development.
Merit	A competent performance, showing some artistic awareness and/or technical ability.	A performance of some ability but requiring greater vocal or physical expression.
Commended	A convincing performance technically & artistically, with increasing stylistic & communication skills.	A performance showing a degree of ability in presentation with developing modulation and interpretation.
Honours	An excellent performance, demonstrating fluent technical and artistic skills with emerging individuality.	Assured and expressive, demonstrating a high level of technical security, imagination and stylistic insight and with a real sense of communication and performance
Outstanding	An impressive performance technically and artistically, displaying spontaneity & clear individuality.	A performance of heightened sensibility in interpretation which commands audience involvement, sincere in its intention, content and style of the piece.
Exceptional	A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic individuality	An astonishingly impressive performance displaying effortless technical control and superlative individuality in its artistic interpretations.

Certificates may be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator. Some participants may be invited to perform in the Festival Concert on Saturday 21 March 2026

AWARDS

Youth Band Challenge a prize of **£250** for the winning band.

President's Cup (donated by Dr Philip Cranmer) for the most promising participant under 14 years of age.

Shauni McGregor Festival Cup This award will go to the most promising musician, aged 18 and under, in the Festival Concert along with a **£500** bursary.

Adjudicator's Choice – Speech & Drama (donated by The Theatre, Chipping Norton) – cinema vouchers. Adjudicator's choice for that "something extra special".

Wychwood Trophy (donated by Pauline Carter) for the most promising primary school pianist up to and including Grade 5.

Robin Martin-Oliver Award (donated by Wychwood Singers) **£50** for the best Junior Choir performance.

Chipping Norton & Stow Methodist Circuit Bicentenary Trophy for the junior vocal performance which best communicates with the audience.

Cups/trophies remain the property of the Festival and must be returned in good condition prior to the 2027 Festival. Engraving of trophies is the responsibility of award-winners.

AUDIENCE TICKETS & PROGRAMMES

Classes	£2 per day (free for performers, under 18s and Friends)
Festival Concert	£6.00
Festival Pass*	£6.00 * Admits one person to all classes and the Children's Workshop Presentations, but not to other concert events and the Festival Concert.

Programmes, price £3, will be available from the end of February at Jaffe and Neale or on the door during festival events.

BURSARY ENTRIES

We want to be as inclusive as possible but acknowledge the strain on household budgets. Thanks to the kind support of Wise Investments Ltd we are able to continue to offer a number of free entries to those who otherwise could not take part.

If you would like to be considered for a Bursary please mail entries@cnmf.org.uk with your details and each request will be considered by the trustees and you will be notified accordingly.

SHAUNI MCGREGOR LEGACY FUND

Shauni McGregor was an active and inspiring musician whose enthusiasm and passion for music-making in the community contributed to the Chipping Norton Music Festival becoming one of the nation's most admired. Her dedication enabled so many people to participate in music and develop their skills, and her energy, as festival committee member and chair, ensured these experiences were widely available and accessible. Shauni died of brain cancer in early 2021 and bequeathed a legacy fund to support the festival in ensuring her good work continues. The committee has pledged to use this gift to enable more people to develop their music in ways that she encouraged through her teaching, active participation and passionate leadership.

The 2023 festival launched the **Young Performers' Recital**, offering a great opportunity for performers aged 18 and under to perform a contrasting short programme of their own choice to a live audience. As it was so successful we have decided to make this an annual event. The recitals in 2026 will be for all categories and will emphasise the values and standards that she upheld for her pupils. Also, the awarding of the **SHAUNI MCGREGOR FESTIVAL PLATE** to the most promising performer in the Festival Concert. A significant bursary of **£500** will be attached for the recipient to use in pursuit of study, and the chance to return in 2027 to perform again as well as explain how the bursary has benefitted the winner.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

The Committee takes all reasonable steps to manage personal data that it uses in order to run the Festival. The Privacy Notice can be found on our website www.cnmf.org.uk or provided on request.

Are you a Music teacher? We have put a page on our website for students to find a suitable music teacher – send us your details and we will add you to the site free of charge for 12 months

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NEW TO THE FESTIVAL?

If you have never taken part in our Festival before you may wonder what to expect. Chipping Norton is highly regarded as a friendly and welcoming non-competitive Festival where all performers should leave feeling inspired and encouraged. To help with this, here is a step-by-step guide for those who are new to the Festival.

How to enter (by Sunday 1 February 2026):

The rules are detailed on pages 7-13 and you can find out more about our online entry process on page 14.

What happens next (later in February)?

You will be notified of the time of your class. Full details of each class will be in the programme available towards the end of February 26

The time given will be the start of the session; the session may include other classes and so we ask that you arrive 15 minutes before the time advised in your acknowledgment (we make every effort to keep to time, but occasionally classes overrun or finish early).

On the day (March):

When you arrive at the venue you will be welcomed by a Festival volunteer.

Performers (and youngsters under 18) do not require a ticket.

Audience members, parents, guardians, and friends require a ticket which may be purchased at the door (or you may use a Festival pass – see Audience Tickets).

At the start of each class the steward will announce the class and call for each performer when the adjudicator is ready.

The performer then comes forward to perform their chosen piece (note the requirement to provide a copy of the item to be performed for the adjudicator (p8)).

The performer then returns to the audience to listen to others in the class. Note that there may be a delay for the adjudicator to write their comments in a report.

At the end of the class the adjudicator may talk about each performance in turn.

Certificates may be presented to some performers. This is at the discretion of the adjudicator and will be given for performances that they consider having been particularly memorable. (Note that certificates do not mean a certain standard has been achieved and do not mean that anyone is “first” or “second” in the class).

The adjudicator's reports will either be presented at the end of the class or may be collected from the door steward at the end of the class.

Performers are encouraged to listen to other classes in the session.

Volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions and to make you feel welcome. We hope you will enjoy your Festival experience.

If you have any questions then please do contact us and ask as we do our best to be friendly and help all.

2026-online entries

We will continue to use the online portal to enter the Festival for 2026. This information is supplementary to the Rules on pages 7-11. If you have previously used the online entry system you can simply log in but if not you will be required to register via our website.

How do I do this?

The link can be found on our website or type cnmf.runmyfestival.net in your browser. This will take you to a separate website managed by "Run My Festival". Your data will be fully secure as we have an agreement with them. You can enter as an individual, on behalf of a group/ensemble, or as teacher on behalf of your pupils. **There is a useful Entry Guide [here](#)**

- Register your details and create a log-in (you may already have this if you have entered ours or other festivals that use this system).
- Select from the classes.
- Enter the performance details as you would have done on the paper form.
- Ensure that details of pieces to be performed are accurately recorded (composer's/author's names, accents etc.) as these are used for the programme.
- You will not be able to enter after the closing date of Sunday 1st February 2026.

How do I pay?

You can consolidate payments for multiple classes or multiple entries into a single payment.

Either by bank transfer to the Festival :

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account: 00014969

Reference: The unique reference number on your acknowledgement

Via Paypal – please note you do not need a Paypal account for this method

Or by cheque made out to "Chipping Norton Music Festival" with the unique reference number on the reverse of the cheque and send by post to:

50 The Leys, Chipping Norton, OX7 5HH

I don't want to do this online?

You can still submit a paper form and cheque as above. Forms are available from the website, by email from entries@cnmf.org.uk, or phone 01608 641439/07875 454094.

What happens next?

If you enter online, then you will get an acknowledgement of your entry or entries. You will hear later in February as to when classes have been scheduled.

If you enter on paper by post, then you will not receive an acknowledgement initially and only hear later in February about the scheduling for your class(es).

We hope you enjoy taking part in the Festival!

PIANO

Friday 13/Sat 14 March

Adjudicator: James Kirby

- Section notes:
1. Classes may take place on either day depending on numbers.
 2. Duet classes may be with players of similar standard or may be with teacher. Only the pupil will be adjudicated if playing with their teacher. Performers are encouraged to change places if playing more than one piece.



James gives recitals throughout the UK including Wigmore Hall, Edinburgh, Aldeburgh festival and extensively in Europe. He studied at the Moscow Conservatoire and returns to perform concertos and recitals and lead chamber music courses in the former Soviet Union every year. He has given concerto performances with the English and Scottish Chamber Orchestras and Moscow Symphony Orchestra. He is also a member of the Barbican Piano Trio, which recently celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary and performs regularly throughout Europe and the USA. James teaches at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Royal Holloway, University of London and the University of Hull. He is an Honorary Professor of the Rachmaninov Institute in Tambov, Russia, and serves on the juries of many International competitions, most recently in Russia, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia. In addition to performing, David has been an ABRSM examiner since 1998.

Beginners

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Solo – Beginners (learning up to 12 months)
Own choice | Time limit: 1 min Fee £4.00 |
| 2 | Duet – Beginners (learning up to 12 months)
Own choice | Time limit: 1 min Fee £4.50 |
| 3 | Solo – Preliminary (pre-Grade 1)
Own choice | Time limit: 1 min Fee £4.00 |
| 4 | Duet – Preliminary (pre-Grade 1 see note 2)
Own choice | Time limit: 2 mins Fee £4.50 |
| 5 | Duet – Family (any combination of generations and ability)
Own choice | Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.50 |
| 6 | Solo – Adult Beginners (up to Grade 3) (categories will not be awarded in this class)
Own choice | Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.50 |

Early grades

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------------|
| 7 | Solo – Primary (Grade 1)
Any one piece from the ABRSM, Guildhall or Trinity Grade 1 syllabus or a piece of similar standard | Time limit: 1 min Fee £4.50 |
| 8 | Duet – Primary (Grade 1 see note 2)
Own choice | Time limit: 2 mins Fee £5.50 |
| 9 | Solo – Elementary (Grade 2)
Any one piece from the ABRSM, Guildhall or Trinity Grade 2 syllabus or a piece of similar standard | Time limit: 2 mins Fee £4.50 |
| 10 | Duet – Elementary (Grade 2 see note 2)
Own choice | Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.50 |

Middle grades

- | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------|-----------|
| 11 | Solo – Lower (Grades 3 and 4)
Own choice (classical, popular or jazz) | Time limit: 4 mins | Fee £6.00 |
| 12 | Duet – Lower (Grades 3 and 4 see note 2)
Own choice | Time limit: 4 mins | Fee £6.50 |
| 13 | Solo – Jazz (any age, up to Grade 5)
Own choice from ABRSM Jazz syllabus | Time limit: 4 mins | Fee £6.00 |
| 14 | Solo – Intermediate (Grades 5 and 6)
Own choice (classical, popular or jazz) | Time limit: 6 mins | Fee £6.00 |
| 15 | Duet – Intermediate (Grades 5 and 6 see note 2)
Own choice | Time limit: 6 mins | Fee £6.50 |
| 16 | Solo – Piano for the Petrified!
Own choice | Time limit: 4 mins | Fee £5.50 |

“Piano for the Petrified!” is open to anyone who may not have taken part in a festival (or not for some time) and is Grade 3 and beyond. Participants will be given comments for guidance and further development, but no categories will be awarded.

Higher grades

- | | | | |
|----|---|---------------------|------------|
| 17 | Solo – Advanced (Grade 7 and above)
Own choice (classical, popular or jazz) | Time limit: 8 mins | Fee £7.00 |
| 18 | Duet – Advanced (Grade 7 and above see note 2)
Own choice | Time limit: 8 mins | Fee £7.50 |
| 19 | Solo – Open (18 years and over)
Own choice | Time limit: 10 mins | Fee £9.00 |
| 20 | Duet – Open
Own choice | Time limit: 10 mins | Fee £9.50 |
| 21 | Piano Recital/Concerto (Diploma standard expected)
Own choice | Time limit: 15 mins | Fee £16.00 |

Accompaniment

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------|------------|
| 22 | Accompaniment (14 – 17 years) (only the pianist will be adjudicated)
Any song or instrumental piece | Time limit: 4 mins | Fee £6.00 |
| 23 | Accompaniment (18 years and over) (only the pianist will be adjudicated)
Any song or instrumental piece | Time limit: 6 mins | Fee £7.00 |
| 24 | Masterclass – Provisional
Own choice of one piece | | Fee £10.00 |

Open to pianists of any standard or experience, with a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 performers having 15 minutes each. To register interest, complete an entry giving details of standard and piece to be played. Those selected will be notified by Friday, 6 February. Those not selected will have the fee refunded.

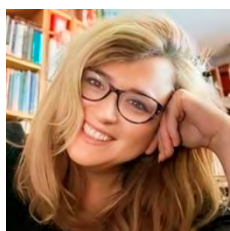
SPEECH & DRAMA

Tuesday 17 March

Adjudicator: Rebecca Vines

(Wednesday 18 March will only be used if entry numbers make it necessary)

- Section notes:
1. *Own Choice pieces: the time limit includes any introduction.*
 2. *Verse Speaking: performances should be from memory.*
 3. *Acting Classes: performances should be from memory with a script provided for the adjudicator. Hand props and simple costumes only may be used.*
 4. *Public Speaking Classes: notes may be used but the speech must not be read. Visual aids are encouraged.*



Rebecca read journalism at Cardiff University, during which time she wrote a weekly column for *The Guardian* newspaper. She continues to work for a range of publications as a features writer, ghost writer, and theatre critic. Rebecca then studied as an actor at the London Centre for Theatre Studies; and her theatre credits include off-West End, Fringe, tour, educational theatre and voiceover. Favourite roles include Maggie (*Dancing at Lughnasa*); Elizabeth (*The Crucible*); Beverley (*Abigail's Party*); Madame Arcati (*Blithe Spirit*); Martha (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*) Rebecca trained as a specialist drama teacher at The Guildhall. She has taught in a range of primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions for the last twenty years; and is the Principal of her own drama school, which operates internationally. Rebecca's pupils have been awarded places at major conservatoires and bodies such as RADA, LAMDA, Central, Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music, Guildhall, Bristol Old Vic, Mountview, East 15, Guildford, AADA, Royal Birmingham, the Oxford School of Drama, National Youth Theatre, and the National Youth Music Theatre. Their work can be seen on the BBC, ITV, Sky, C4, E4, Netflix, Working Title, National Theatre, RSC, and with countless touring theatre companies in the UK and abroad.

Ages Up to 7 years (see also Class 57: Group Presentation and 62 and 63 Verse to a Musical Backing)

25 Verse Speaking (up to 5 years)

Own choice

Time limit: 1 min Fee £4.50

26 Verse Speaking (6–7 years)

Own choice

Time limit: 2 mins Fee £4.50

Ages 8–9 years (see also Class 58: Group Presentation and 64 Verse to a Musical Backing)

27 Verse Speaking (8–9 years)

Own choice

Time limit: 2 mins Fee £4.50

28 Prepared Reading (8–9 years)

Own choice

Time limit: 2 mins Fee £4.50

29 Public Speaking (8–9 years)

Own choice

Time limit: 2 mins Fee £4.50

30 Solo acting or monologue (8–9 years)

Own choice

Time limit: 2 mins Fee £4.50

31 Acting: Pairs or Small Groups (9 years and under)

Own choice

Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.50

Ages 10–11 years (see also Class 59: Group Presentation and 65 Verse to a Musical Backing)

32 Verse Speaking (10–11 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 2 mins Fee £4.50
33 Prepared Reading (10–11 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 2 mins Fee £4.50
34 Public Speaking (10–11 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £4.50
35 Solo acting or monologue (10–11 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 2 mins Fee £4.50
36 Acting: Pairs or Small Groups (10–11 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.50

Ages 12–13 years (see also Class 60: Group Presentation and 66 Verse to a Musical Backing)

37 Verse Speaking (12–13 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £4.50
38 Prepared Reading (12–13 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £4.50
39 Public Speaking (12–13 years)	
Own choice	Time Limit: 3 mins Fee £4.50
40 Solo acting or monologue (12–13 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 2 mins Fee £4.50
41 Acting: Pairs or Small Groups (12–13 years)	
Own choice from a book or play	Time limit: 4 mins Fee £5.50

Ages 14–15 years (see also Class 60: Group Presentation and 67 Verse to a Musical Backing)

42 Verse Speaking (14–15 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00
43 Prepared Reading (14–15 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00
44 Public Speaking (14–15 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 5 mins Fee £5.00
45 Solo acting or monologue (14–15 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00
46 Acting: Pairs or Small Groups (14–15 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 5 mins Fee £6.00

For details of all concerts see pages 21 to 23

Book tickets for all concerts online at www.cnmf.org.uk

Ages 16–17 years (see also Class 60: Group Presentation and 68 Verse to a Musical Backing)

47 Verse Speaking (16–17 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00
48 Prepared Reading (16–17 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00
49 Public Speaking (16–17 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 5 mins Fee £5.00
50 Solo acting or monologue (16–17 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00
51 Acting: Pairs or Small Groups (16–17 years)	
Own choice	Time limit: 6 mins Fee £6.00

Aged 18 and over (see also Class 61: Group Presentation and 69 Verse to a Musical Backing)

52 Verse speaking (Open: 18 years and over)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.50
53 Prepared Reading (Open: 18 years and over)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.50
54 Prepared Religious Text Reading (Open: 18 years and over)	
Own choice	Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.50
55 Public Speaking (Open: 18 years and over)	
Own choice	Time limit: 5 mins Fee £5.50
56 Solo acting or monologue (Open: 18 years and over)	
Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins Fee £5.50
57 Acting: Pairs or Small Groups (Open: 18 years and over)	
Own choice	Time limit: 12 mins Fee £9.00

Group Presentations

The presentations will be assessed on dramatic impact and originality, and may include one or more of the following: mime, group speaking, dance, music (live or recorded), prepared improvisation, scripted material from any published work etc. Hand props and simple costumes are optional, and the time limit includes set-up.

58 Group Presentation (Early years and Foundation stage: 3 to 30 performers)	
Own choice	Time limit: 7 mins Fee £8.00
59 Group Presentation (Key Stage 1: 3 to 30 performers)	
Own choice	Time limit: 7 mins Fee £8.00
60 Group Presentation (Key Stage 2: 3 to 30 performers)	
Own choice	Time limit: 7 mins Fee £8.00
61 Group Presentation (Secondary: 3 to 30 performers)	
Own choice	Time limit: 10 mins Fee £10.00

62 Group Presentation (Open: 3 to 30 performers)

Own choice

Time limit: 10 mins Fee £10.00

Solo or Group Presentations to a Musical Backing

Any poem or extract from a poem with a recorded musical backing. Performers will be required to provide their own playback equipment, or accompanist and are advised to ensure copyright laws are observed regarding the musical backing. Minimal movement or gestures are permitted

63 Verse Speaking to a Musical backing (5 years and under: 1 to 6 performers)

Own choice

Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00

64 Verse Speaking to a Musical backing (6-7 years: 1 to 6 performers)

Own choice

Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00

65 Verse Speaking to a Musical backing (8-9 years: 1 to 6 performers)

Own choice

Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00

66 Verse Speaking to a Musical backing (10-11 years: 1 to 6 performers)

Own choice

Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00

67 Verse Speaking to a Musical backing (12-13 years: 1 to 6 performers)

Own choice

Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00

68 Verse Speaking to a Musical backing (14-15 years: 1 to 6 performers)

Own choice

Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00

69 Verse Speaking to a Musical backing (16-17 years: 1 to 6 performers)

Own choice

Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.00

70 Verse Speaking to a Musical backing (18 years and over: 1 to 6 performers)

Own choice

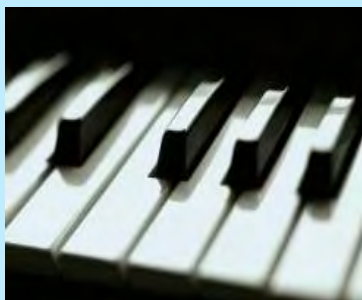
Time limit: 3 mins Fee £5.50

71 Masterclass – *Provisional*

Own choice of one piece

Fee £10.00

Open to students of any standard or experience, with a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 performers having 15minutes each. To register interest, complete an entry giving details of standard and piece to be played. Those selected will be notified by Friday, 6 February. Those not selected will have the fee refunded.



Festival Concert

Saturday 21 March 2026 at 7.30pm–Town Hall

A showcase of selected highlights from the 114th Festival

Tickets £6 from our website www.cnmf.org.uk from Saturday 11 January 2026
Friends of the Festival are entitled to complimentary tickets from the Friends' Secretary:
secretary@cnmf.org.uk

CONCERTS & EVENTS

Youth Band Challenge!

Friday 6 March – 7pm

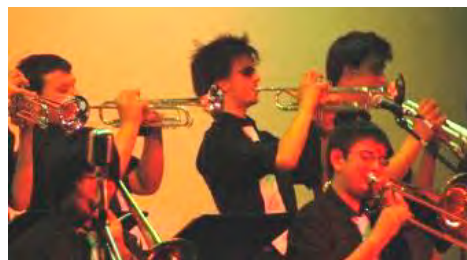
Hear talented youngsters 'giving it their all'
From small combos through to Big Bands ...
Traditionally the opening event each year to the
Festival fortnight and showing off the talent
from around the county for youngsters

performing live on stage, playing blues, jazz and much more. **Now open to bands of any style and genre.**

Tickets: £8.00 Adults £1.00 18's and under available online or at the door.

Venue: Chipping Norton Theatre

Via www.cnmf.org.uk/concerts or www.chippingnortontheatre.com



The Adderbury Ensemble

Tuesday 10 March- 7.30pm & Thursday 19 March- 7.30pm

The Adderbury Ensemble will be performing two concerts in their usual enigmatic style. Formed in 1986 by a group of the UK's finest young freelance musicians, the Adderbury Ensemble have always had a flexible line-up mixing and matching different players to deliver performances primarily as quartets, quintets or small chamber groups to play symphonies and concertos by the likes of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn or Brahms.



Tickets: £18 Adults, 18 and under free. Available via www.cnmf.org.uk or by visiting www.adderburyensemble.com or by calling on +44 1295 810683 +44 7711 606996

Venue: Town Hall, Chipping Norton

School Workshop — sponsored by



TUDOR HALL

Wednesday and Thursday 11/12 March – 1.30pm

The workshop for year 5-6 primary school youngsters has been a feature of the Festival for many years drawing pupils together from many schools to produce a short presentation in the afternoon. This year's event will be led by Lizzie Soden and Lydia Tomita, on the theme Ocean Commotion.



Venue: The Town Hall, Chipping Norton

CONCERTS & EVENTS

Young Performers' Recital

Thursday 12 March – Concert 6.30pm



Come along and support these motivated performers as they develop their skills and stagecraft. An evening where young musicians, singers, actors and more are invited to come together to share the joy of performing. We will present an evening showing the best of local talent which everyone will enjoy.

Tickets: Adults £5, 18 & under: Free

Venue: The Town Hall, Chipping Norton

The North Cotswold Chamber Choir

Saturday 14 March – 8.00pm



The North Cotswold Chamber Choir, with their Conductor George Parris, trace the rhythm of the earth and its changing seasons through some of the most evocative choral music of the past century, celebrating the ways in which composers have found poetry, beauty, and renewal in the natural cycle of the year.

Tickets: Adults £18

18 & under: Free

Venue: The Town Hall, Chipping Norton

Tom Poster and Elena Urioste

Sunday 15 March – 6.30pm



The duo is known for their creative programming and performances, including their #UriPosteJukeBox project. They are praised as "classical music's most multitalented new power couple" and have a shared project called Kaleidoscope Collective

Tickets: Adults £20 in advance and £25 on the door

18 & under: £1.00 in advance and £5 on the door

Venue: The Town Hall, Chipping Norton

CONCERTS & EVENTS

The Festival Folk Night

Friday 20 March

An informal evening with the feel of a traditional folk night, and space for individuals or groups to perform. This night will be hosted by The Chequers Pub, Goddard's Lane, Chipping Norton as part of its regular Folk Nights and everyone will be welcome to join in and take part, making music together.



Folk Own choice, voice, any instrument, combinations or presentation



- Session leader to be Paul Bryan
- Non-competitive to bring a diverse range of people together to share and enjoy making music.
- Lots of music to hear, plenty to join in with, and all in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.
- If you want to turn up and play on the day, it is FREE as well if you just want to come and listen.
- A collection bucket will be available to support the Festival funds – please bring cash!

The Festival Concert

Saturday 21 March

Featuring some of the outstanding performers in all classes the Festival Concert is a showcase of the best that the music festival offers. The trophy presentations and awards are also featured at this concert.



Tickets: Adults £6, 18 & under: Free

Venue: The Town Hall, Chipping Norton

Family Friendly Concert

Sunday 22 March – Concert 3.30pm



Following a very successful concert in 2024 and 2025 we again are planning a family friendly afternoon concert to encourage parents and grandparents to bring along their youngsters. Full details will follow. Free tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits will be provided by the Festival team. So

come along, bring the family and enjoy.

Tickets: Adults £TBA, 18 & under: Free

Venue: The Town Hall, Chipping Norton

CHOIRS

Saturday 7 March

Adjudicator: Martin Wallington

*Each choir is to perform a programme of own choice music lasting no more than 12 minutes. The adjudicator will comment on programme and musical content as well as on standards and general presentation, bearing in mind the resources available to the choir. Depending on entry numbers of classes may be combined. **Please state accurate numbers of performers in each group as numbers are limited.***



Martin has recently retired from playing the Viola with the BBC Philharmonic, after 36 years in the job. A graduate of Chetham's School Of Music and The Royal Northern College Of Music, he has enjoyed an exciting and fulfilling career playing in many of the finest concert halls in Europe, North and South America, China and Japan, as well as the BBC Proms and all the major concert venues in the UK. Martin is hugely committed to his involvement in music education. He regularly advises senior students at the beginning of their professional career and was for several years a Mentor for the BBC Philharmonic/RNCM Professional Access Scheme, where students spend time working alongside their mentor in the professional working environment. In addition to his playing commitments, he has always had a busy private teaching practice, as well as teaching for a number of years in the Music Department at Manchester University. Martin has been increasingly in demand as an Adjudicator both at school music competitions and at a few regional music festivals. He loves encouraging young people on their 'journey' to discovering the joy of making live music.

72 Small Choirs and Singing Groups (2-20 performers)	Fee £15.00
73 Choirs and Singing Groups (21-80 performers)	Fee £25.00
74 Barbershop (up to 20 performers)	Fee £15.00
75 Junior Choirs and Singing Groups (2-50 performers)	Fee £13.00
76 Youth Choirs and Singing Groups (2-50 performers) Secondary School/young adult groups	Fee £13.00
77 Choirs and Singing Groups (2-50 performers) Choirs or groups who interpret music from a vocal backing track by using sign language or similar.	Fee £13.00

We are an inclusive festival, and all performers are welcome in any of our classes.

Why not become a Friend of the Festival?

How much does it cost?	The suggested minimum annual subscription is £20 (individual) and £30 (couple).
How do I join?	Pick up a leaflet from the Stewards on the door or contact Philippa Furlong Secretary for Friends ☺ philippafurlong@gmail.com



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artandtalking.com

YOUTH BAND CHALLENGE

Friday 7 March

Adjudicator: Martin Wallington

78 Youth Band Challenge

Own choice

Time limit: 15 mins Fee £20.00

This year's Band Challenge will take place at Chipping Norton Theatre

This event originated as a jazz competition, but we are now opening it to bands performing in any genre

Our interpretation of "Band" is wide, so if you are a big band, a blues band, a salsa group, pop, rock or a jazz trio (with or without vocals) this is your evening! The adjudicator will comment on programme and musical content as well as on standards and general presentation, bearing in mind the resources available to the group.

- Expected starting time 7pm depending on the number of entries. – set up from 5.30pm.
- Performers should be no more than 25 years of age on date of entry, although the Musical Director may perform with the band.
- A maximum of 25 performers in the band, and the number must be stated on the entry form.
- Each band has **15 minutes of playing time** - marks may be deducted for bands running over playing time.limits.
- A maximum of 7 microphones will be available.
- To assist the smooth transition between bands, entrants **MUST** send a diagram of staging required for the band, the exact number of chairs required, and specify the position and quantity for any microphones.
- The diagram of staging should preferably be sent with the entry form or to entries@cnmf.org.uk no later than Friday 6 February 2026.
- Audience tickets priced £8.00 available on the door or, to avoid disappointment, in advance from www.cnmf.org.uk

Grant aided by



**WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



*Chipping Norton Music Festival is
affiliated to the British &
International Federation of Festivals
of Music, Dance & Speech.*

**Tickets for all concerts, classes and events are all available on our
website at www.cnmf.org.uk/concerts**

JUNIOR VOCAL

Saturday 21 March

Adjudicator: Maria Jagusz

(Subject to entry numbers the Junior and Senior Vocals may be merged to Friday evening)

- Section notes:
1. Over 16s are encouraged to take part in the Senior Vocal Classes (page 30).
 2. Junior vocalists are also encouraged to consider the masterclass (see page 30).
 3. Note that all entries will be assessed on the performance and singing abilities only.
 4. *If you wish to enter more than one style, then the fee is per song. Run My Festival will only allow a person to enter a class once so each style must be entered in the selected class.*



Maria Jagusz trained as a dancer before taking up a place at the Royal Northern College of Music where she was awarded the Ricordi Prize for Opera. Further scholarships enabled her to continue her studies at the National Opera Studio. As a singer Maria has worked as soloist for most of the leading opera companies in the U.K and Europe. Her roles include Carmen, Cherubino, Orlofsky, Hansel, Dorabella and Rosina. She has performed with many of the world's leading singers including Domingo, Carreras, Freni and Dame Felicity Lott. Her last role was Filipevna in Eugene Onegin for Mid Wales Opera just before lockdown. She is a keen recitalist and a regular soloist for choral societies in the U.K. As a teacher Maria has specialised in training students who are hoping to have professional careers in the world of opera and musical theatre. As well as her private teaching practice she is vocal consultant for the International College of Music Theatre in London.

Ages Up to 7 years

79 Solo Singing (up to 7 years)

Own choice (Any musical style)

Time limit: 3 mins

Fee £4.50

80 Duet Singing (up to 7 years)

Own choice (Any musical style)

Time limit: 3 mins

Fee £4.50

Ages 8-10 years

81 Solo Singing (8-10 years)

Own choice (Any musical style)

Time limit: 3 mins

Fee £5.00

82 Duet Singing (8-10 years)

Own choice (Any musical style)

Time limit: 3 mins

Fee £5.00

Ages 11-13 years

83 Solo Singing (11-13 years)

Own choice (Any musical style)

Time limit: 4 mins

Fee £5.50

84 Duet Singing (11-13 years)

Own choice (Any musical style)

Time limit: 4 mins

Fee £5.50

Ages 14-17 years

85 Solo Singing (14-17 years)

Own choice (Any musical style)

Time limit: 5 mins

Fee £5.50

86 Duet Singing (14-17 years)

Own choice (Any musical style)

Time limit: 5 mins

Fee £5.50

For details of all concerts see pages 21 to 23

Book tickets for all concerts online at www.cnmf.org.uk



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education has to offer, visit kinghamhill.org.uk

SENIOR VOCAL

Friday 21 March

Adjudicator: Maria Jagusz

(Subject to entry numbers the Junior and Senior Vocals may be merged to Friday evening)

- Section notes:
1. Senior Vocal classes may take place in the afternoon and evening or subject to numbers may be merged with Junior Vocal on the Saturday
 2. Note that all entries will be assessed on the performance and singing abilities only.
 3. *If you wish to enter more than one style, then the fee is per song. Run My Festival will only allow a person to enter a class once so each style must be entered in the selected class.*

87 “Sing for Pleasure”

Own choice (any musical style)

Time limit: 5 mins

Fee £7.00

Open to anyone who is new to solo singing or may not have taken part in a festival (or not for some time). Participants will be given comments for guidance and further development, but no categories will be awarded.

88 Senior Singing

Own choice (any musical style)

Time limit: 5 mins

Fee £7.00

If you wish to sing more than one style, then the fee is per song

89 Duets, Trios and Quartets

Own choice (any musical style)

Time limit: 7 mins

Fee £9.00

90 Vocal Recital (Diploma standard)

Own choice (any musical style)

Time limit: 15 mins

Fee £16.00

91 Masterclass – Provisional

Own choice of one piece

Time limit: 20 mins

Fee £10.00

Open to singers of any standard or experience, with a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 performers having 15 minutes each. To register interest, complete an entry giving details of standard and piece to be played. Those selected will be notified by Friday, 6 February. Those not selected will have the fee refunded.

For details of all concerts see pages 21 to 23

Book tickets for all concerts online at www.cnmf.org.uk



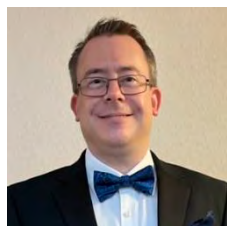
***The Festival is part funded by
Chipping Norton Town Council***

WOODWIND, BRASS & RECORDERS

Monday 9 March

Adjudicator: Nicholas Garman

Any queries about the suitability of an instrument in this section should be addressed to the Entries' Secretary.



Nicholas' passion for music making and teaching is fuelled by his own early musical experiences, starting with his first cornet lesson, aged 6. Since then, he has performed with orchestras and ensembles across the world, has taught students to a high level (several of whom are enjoying their own careers as professional musicians and academics) and as a conductor, has led ensembles throughout the UK to critical acclaim. He enjoys working with both amateurs and professionals alike. Nicholas is the Secretary of the Association of Brass Band Adjudicators and has adjudicated both nationally and internationally. Since 2016, he has examined music, speech and drama, theory and conducting for the London College of Music and travels globally in this role, which as well as examining, includes the training of new examiners and the writing of new syllabuses.

92	Recorder Ensembles		
	Own choice	Time limit: 8 min	Fee £9.00
93	Solo – Beginners (learning up to 12 months/pre-Grade 1)		
	Own choice	Time limit: 1 min	Fee £4.00
94	Primary (Grades 1 and 2)		
	Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £4.50
95	Elementary (Grades 3 and 4)		
	Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £5.00
96	Primary/Elementary Duet or Ensemble (up to eight players)		
	Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £5.00
97	Intermediate (Grades 5 and 6)		
	Own choice	Time limit: 6 mins	Fee £6.00
98	Intermediate Duet or Ensemble (up to eight players)		
	Own choice	Time limit: 6 mins	Fee £6.00
99	Advanced (Grade 7 and above)		
	Own choice	Time limit: 8 mins	Fee £7.00
100	Adult Beginners (up to Grade 4)		
	Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £5.50
101	Advanced Duet or Ensemble (up to eight players)		
	Own choice	Time limit: 8 mins	Fee £8.00
102	Open (18 years and over)		
	Own choice	Time limit: 10 mins	Fee £9.00
103	Woodwind & Brass Recital/Concerto		
	Own choice	Time limit: 15 mins	Fee £16.00

104 "Woodwind for the Worried"

Own choice

Time limit: 4 mins

Fee £5.50

"Woodwind for the Worried" is open to instrumentalists of any standard who may not have performed in a festival before. Participants will be given comments for guidance and further development, but no categories will be awarded.

105 Masterclass – Provisional

Own choice of one piece

Time limit: 20 mins

Fee £10.00

Open to instrumentalists of any standard or experience, with a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 performers having 15 minutes each. To register interest, complete an entry giving details of standard and piece to be played. Those selected will be notified by Friday, 6 February. Those not selected will have the fee refunded.



www.cotswoldsartsthroughschools.com

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THE
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GUIDE

STRINGS

Monday 16 March

Adjudicator: Fiona McLean-Buechel

Any queries about the suitability of an instrument in this group should be addressed to the Entries' Secretary.



Fiona studied at the Royal Scottish Academy and the Royal Academy of Music and has a passion for music in all forms. She combines a busy performing career with writing creative and collaborative national and international performance projects. She is Lead Tutor for Strings at Trinity Laban Junior Conservatoire and a specialist strings adjudicator and examiner, including syllabus development for the Guildhall Examinations Board. Teaching posts have included the Junior Guildhall School of Music, Goldsmith's, and the National Children's Orchestra. She has been visiting professor of violin at Dartington and Cardiff University. In 2005 Fiona co-founded and was course director of the Youth Strings Programme at the Dartington International Summer School. She subsequently founded and is Creative Director of South-West Camerata whose work was nominated for a Royal Philharmonic Society for Education. Fiona has delivered sessions on 'Mindfulness for Musicians' at the 2016 Music Education Expo in Olympia, a Federation conference in Edinburgh, Musicians Union, and at Trinity Laban Conservatoire.

106	Solo – Beginners (learning up to 12 months/pre-Grade 1) Own choice	Time limit: 1 min	Fee £4.00
107	Primary (Grades 1 and 2) Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £4.50
108	Elementary (Grades 3 and 4) Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £5.00
109	Primary/Elementary Duet or Ensemble (up to eight players) Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £5.00
110	Intermediate (Grades 5 and 6) Own choice	Time limit: 6 mins	Fee £6.00
111	Intermediate Duet or Ensemble (up to eight players) Own choice	Time limit: 6 mins	Fee £6.00
112	Advanced (Grade 7 and above) Own choice	Time limit: 8 mins	Fee £7.00
113	Adult Beginners (up to Grade 4) Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £5.50
114	Advanced Duet or Ensemble (up to eight players) Own choice	Time limit: 8 mins	Fee £8.00
115	Open (18 years and over) Own choice	Time limit: 10 mins	Fee £9.00
116	Strings for the Scared Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £5.50

“Strings for the Scared” is open to instrumentalists of any standard who may not have performed in a festival before. Participants will be given comments for guidance and further development, but no categories will be awarded

117 **String Recital/Concerto** (Diploma standard expected)
Own choice Time limit: 15 mins Fee £16.00

118 **Masterclass – Provisional**
Own choice of one piece Time limit: 20 mins Fee £10.00

Open to instrumentalists of any standard or experience, with a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 performers having 15 minutes each. To register interest, complete an entry giving details of standard and piece to be played. Those selected will be notified by Friday, 6 February. Those not selected will have the fee refunded.



Cotswolds Arts Through Schools is a partnership of local arts organisations trying to help children in local schools be creative.

CATS' programmes span visual arts, dance, drama, opera, oracy, and cultural history. They are designed to bring joy and enthusiasm into classrooms, boost children's self-esteem, improve engagement with learning, and develop essential life skills such as teamwork, communication, and creativity. Arts participation also supports children's overall wellbeing and mental health.

Working with professional artists, musicians, and drama specialists, CATS provides memorable creative experiences while equipping teachers to embed arts-based learning into their practice. Together with partner schools we aim to create arts-rich environments in schools — proven by research and our own evidence to improve children's enthusiasm for school, focus, attendance, and achievement across the curriculum.

This **Chipping Norton Music Festival** is a key opportunity to perform

All this is only possible because of the regular help of friends and supporters. For more information and chances to help financially see our website:

www.cotswoldsartsthroughschools.com

CLASSICAL GUITAR

Sunday 8 March

Adjudicator: Craig Ogden



Craig was born in Australia and is one of the most exciting guitarists of his generation. He studied guitar from the age of seven and percussion from the age of thirteen. In 2004, he became the youngest instrumentalist to receive a Fellowship from the Royal Northern College of Music in recognition of his achievements. Craig's recordings for Virgin/EMI, Chandos, Nimbus, Hyperion and Sony have received wide acclaim, and BBC Music Magazine dubbed him "a worthy successor to Julian Bream". His debut solo CD for Nimbus Records of '20th Century Classics by British composers' was nominated for a Grammy Award. Craig has performed concertos with all of the major UK orchestras and also internationally. Craig regularly appears as soloist and chamber musician at the major London venues and collaborates with many of the UK's top artists and ensembles. He has released a number of CDs and is Principal Lecturer in Guitar at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. In addition, he is a Vice President of the music festival.

119	Solo – Beginners (learning up to 12 months/pre-Grade 1) Own choice	Time limit: 1 min	Fee £4.00
120	Primary (Grades 1 and 2) Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £4.50
121	Elementary (Grades 3 and 4) Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £5.00
122	Primary Duet (Grades 1 and 2) Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £4.50
123	Elementary Duet (Grades 3 and 4) Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £5.00
124	Intermediate (Grades 5 and 6) Own choice	Time limit: 6 mins	Fee £6.00
125	Intermediate Duet (Grades 5 and 6) Own choice	Time limit: 6 mins	Fee £6.00
126	Advanced (Grade 7 and above) Own choice	Time limit: 8 mins	Fee £7.00
127	Advanced Duet (Grade 7 and above) Own choice	Time limit: 8 mins	Fee £8.00
128	Classical Guitar Recital/Concerto (Diploma standard expected) Own choice	Time limit: 15 mins	Fee £16.00
129	Primary/Elementary Ensemble (Up to eight players) Own choice	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £5.00
130	Intermediate Ensemble (Up to eight players) Own choice	Time limit: 6 mins	Fee £6.00
131	Advanced Ensemble (Up to eight players) Own choice	Time limit: 8 mins	Fee £8.00

UKELELE, BANJO and other FRETTED INSTRUMENTS

Sunday 8 March

Adjudicator: Craig Ogden

132	Ukelele – Beginners (learning up to 12 months/pre-Grade 1) Own choice	Time limit: 1 min	Fee £4.00
133	Ukelele – Primary (Grades 1 and 2) Own choice	Time limit: 4 min	Fee £4.50
134	Ukelele – Elementary (Grades 3 and 4) Own choice	Time limit: 4 min	Fee £5.00
135	Ukelele – Intermediate (Grades 5 and 6) Own choice	Time limit: 6 mins	Fee £6.00
136	Ukelele – Advanced (Grade 7 and above) Own choice	Time limit: 8 mins	Fee £7.00

ELECTRIC and ACOUSTIC GUITAR

Sunday 8 March

Adjudicator: Craig Ogden

137	Electric or Acoustic Guitar – Beginners (Learning to 12 months, pre-Grade 1) Own choice	Time limit: 1 min	Fee £4.00
138	Electric or Acoustic Guitar – Primary (Grades 1 and 2) Own choice	Time limit: 4 min	Fee £4.50
139	Electric or Acoustic Guitar – Elementary (Grades 3 and 4) Own choice	Time limit: 4 min	Fee £5.00
140	Electric or Acoustic Guitar – Intermediate (Grades 5 and 6) Own choice	Time limit: 6 mins	Fee £6.00
141	Electric or Acoustic Guitar – Advanced (Grade 7 and above) Own choice	Time limit: 8 mins	Fee £7.00
142	Masterclass – Provisional Own choice of one piece	Time limit: 20 mins	Fee £10.00

Open to instrumentalists of any standard or experience, with a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 performers having 15 minutes each. To register interest, complete an entry giving details of standard and piece to be played. Those selected will be notified by Friday, 6 February. Those not selected will have the fee refunded.

**THE THEATRE
CHIPPING NORTON**

2 Spring Street | Chipping Norton | Oxfordshire OX7 5NL

Box Office 01608 642350

www.chippingnortontheatre.com

We are a theatre, an arthouse cinema, a gallery and a concert hall. We are a resource for our community, but we are also a professional venue, welcoming over 55,000 customer visits every year. We are something unique, but we are also different things to different people. We are the cause and subject of many arguments and debates, and a fair amount of acclaim and affection. We are complicated and a little eccentric. We are not a little theatre. We like to make a big noise.

ORCHESTRAS & MIXED ENSEMBLES

Monday 16 March

Adjudicator: Fiona McLean Buechel

Note: Check whether there is a more appropriate class under strings, woodwind and brass, or guitars before choosing one of these classes.

Time limits in all classes include any introductions so please ensure you meet these criteria.

143	Family Class Two or more members of the same family Own choice	Time limit: 8 mins	Fee £6.00
144	Mixed Instrument Ensembles Groups with any mixture of instruments and voice Own choice	Time limit: 8 mins	Fee £9.00

COMPOSITION

Date and adjudicator to be determined by the composition

Notes: A group or solo composition which must have been written down and sent with the entry for the adjudicator (printed copies or clear, hand-written manuscripts are acceptable). The piece should be performed at the Festival, although not necessarily by the composer. The composer is expected to give a brief introduction to the piece before its live performance and the composition, rather than the performance, will be adjudicated.

145	Composition (up to 14 years)	Time limit: 4 mins	Fee £5.00
146	Composition (14-18 years)	Time limit: 6 mins	Fee £6.00
147	Composition (Open: 18 years and over)	Time limit: 8 mins	Fee £11.00



S T E I N W A Y & S O N S

The Steinway concert piano chosen and hired by the Chipping Norton Music Festival is supplied and maintained by Steinway & Sons, London

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01993 776593
witney@bronsens.co.uk



Chipping Norton

Hillside
Albion Street
Chipping Norton, Oxon, OX7 5BH
01608 642051
chippingnorton@bronsens.co.uk



Oxford

Prama House
267 Banbury Rd,
Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7HT
01865 552996
oxford@bronsens.co.uk



PERCUSSION

Date and adjudicator to be determined

Please indicate what instrument you are playing, and you will be required to provide and set up your own equipment (i.e. drum kits, xylophone etc)

148	Beginners (Learning up to 12 months, pre-Grade 1) Own Choice	Time limit: 1 mins Fee £4.00
149	Primary (Grades 1 and 2) Own Choice	Time limit: 4 mins Fee £4.50
150	Elementary (Grades 3 and 4) Own Choice	Time limit: 4 mins Fee £5.00
151	Intermediate (Grades 5 and 6) Own Choice	Time limit: 6 mins Fee £6.00
152	Advanced (Grade 7 and above) Own Choice	Time limit: 8 mins Fee £7.00

If you have any questions, please just contact one of the committee members or entry secretaries with details on page 4.



Images: Felicity Fox

The Chipping Norton Singers is **The Theatre's** regular choir, for all ages and experience. It's an excellent opportunity to meet like-minded people, explore your love of music and develop your skills in pitch, rhythm and breathing.

Led by renowned choir director Lizzie Soden, this group sings a wide repertoire, from pop classics to traditional folk songs and world music. There are no auditions, and you don't need to be able to read music to join. Whether you are a total newcomer or an experienced singer, this choir has something for everyone.

For more information contact: The Theatre on 01608 642349

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YOUNG PERFORMERS' RECITAL

Thursday 12 March

All classes may apply but as there is a limit to numbers and variety of instrument, to get the best cross section of young performances to honour Shauni's wide experience, the committee will make final selections.

Open to musicians and performers aged 18 and under, of any standard or experience, to perform their own choice or composition, with a minimum of 2 pieces lasting up to 8 minutes. Performers are expected to engage with the audience to announce their pieces. It is all about the joy of performing, so introduction of themselves and their selections is important.

153 Shauni McGregor Young Performers' Recital

Own choice

Time limit: 8 mins Fee £0.00



above - Students from the 1st Young Performers' Recital in 2023

For details of all concerts see pages 21 to 23

Book tickets for all concerts online at www.cnmf.org.uk

Why not become a Friend of the Festival?

How much does it cost?	The suggested minimum annual subscription is £20 (individual) and £30 (couple).
How do I join?	Pick up a leaflet from the Stewards on the door or contact Philippa Furlong, Secretary to Friends ☎ philippafurlong@gmail.com

Festival Supporters

The Festival wishes to thank the following and other advertised supporters, in addition to grants received from WODC and Chipping Norton Town Council.

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Chipping Norton Town Council and Staff.
The Town Hall – Terry Palmer and Tanya etc.
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CHIPPING NORTON

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We hope you enjoy taking part in the Festival!

Notes



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