

Festival Rules

1. Entries should be made using the online entry system. All entries with full and correct details, including fees as stated in the syllabus, must be made **before the closing date of 13th January 2024**.
All other communications should be addressed to the Festival Secretary at 30 Glenridding Drive, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. LA14 4PE. If a reply is required, a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.
2. All competitors enter at their own risk. **No entry can be transferred to another class after receipt.**
3. Cheques should be made payable to **South Cumbria Musical Festival**. Entry fees are non-returnable. **No late entries can be accepted.**
4. In classes where an age limit is stipulated, competitors must be within the age limit stated. Age limits stated in the syllabus are the school year in which the children are placed. Please note that school year 13 is the maximum for age-restricted classes and that birth certificates should be produced if requested.
5. Once the entry list is closed, a ballot will be made for the order of competing, and the committee will decide the order of classes. The Festival reserves the right to alter and arrange the order, day and times of classes and to cancel any classes for which there are insufficient entries. Entry fees will be refunded if appropriate.
6. The Committee reserves the right to adjust classes when entries are large and has the right to alter awards, amend classes or refuse any entry.
7. Adjudication:
 - a) The Adjudicator or Stage Steward has the authority to stop or suspend a performance at any time.
 - b) Bursaries, special awards, trophies and certificates may be awarded. Any type of award can be withheld if, in the opinion of the Adjudicator, sufficient merit is not shown. Trophy winners will be required to sign for the safe custody of the trophy and ensure the safe return of the trophy in clean and good order when requested by the Trophy Secretary. Any loss or damage must be reported immediately.
 - c) The Adjudicator's decision will be final. Approaching the Adjudicator or their table is strictly forbidden.
8. Teachers or parents must not coach/conduct from the floor or approach the stage during performance.
9. The Festival is open to amateurs only. For this purpose, 'amateur' means any person who (even if they occasionally accept a fee for musical or dramatic services rendered), does not make their principal living by performing or teaching the discipline involved.

RECORDING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

10. With the exception of photography authorised by the Festival, the use of any recording equipment such as cameras, video equipment, tape or audio recorders, is strictly forbidden. Persons in possession of Audio or Visual equipment may be refused entry to, or requested to leave, the auditorium.
11. Parents/Guardians of competitors under the age of 18, or any adult performer objecting to publicity or authorised press photographs, with names being printed in any publications, or Festival promotional material, must make their objection known in writing to the Secretary at least one week before the Festival commences.

TIMING RULES

12. Timing limits must not be exceeded - one start, one stop. No extra time will be allowed for false starts. Synopsis/introductions before the start of the performance will not be timed. **Any additional commentary once the performance has started will be included in the time limit.**

Speech: Timing will commence at the first spoken word of text.

Music Classes: Timing will commence at the first note of music.

Where a time limit is specified, performers should ensure they use a minimum of 50% of the time allowed; if necessary, two pieces may be used. Should the time used in any 'Own Choice' performance be insufficient, the Adjudicator may feel unable to provide a fair adjudication.

Timing Stewards will be in attendance and will inform the Adjudicator of any breach of the time limit. This will lead to disqualification and the competitor will receive adjudication only.

MUSIC RULES

13. Competitors may use their own accompanists for any 'Own Choice' classes. If you are able to provide your own accompanist this will greatly help the Festival. Please note, in all choir classes (Youth and Adult) individual choirs are responsible for providing their own accompanist. **No backing tracks will be accepted except in classes 811 and 812.** However, in the event of a **school** wishing to enter a choir and not having a **school** accompanist, then the official Festival Accompanist is available and will rehearse with the choir at their school for a rehearsal prior to the festival. If a school has difficulty rehearsing without an accompanist or conductor the festival is on hand to give help and advice.
14. If the official Festival accompanist has been requested for an 'Own Choice' class, a copy of the 'Own Choice' item *must* be included with the entry form for the use of the accompanist. Photocopies will be destroyed after the performance. Please note all competitors will also need to provide a published copy for the adjudicator at the time of performance. **Having requested the Festival accompanist for an 'Own Choice' class, the accompanist must then be used.**
15. In **Brass, Recorder, Woodwind** and **String** classes, piano accompaniment in Solo classes is preferred: however, in the event of no published or printed copy being available, competitors may perform unaccompanied or seek permission from the Festival Office to use a recorded accompaniment.
16. **Junior Brass Band Classes:** At least 80% of the members of a Junior Band or Ensemble must be 18 years of age or under.
17. Competitors are strongly reminded that it is against the law to reproduce copyright music without the permission of the copyright holder (usually the publisher). The Music Publishers Association has issued a revised code of practice on copying copyright works and have allowed the following concession: one photocopy only of any 'Own Choice' pieces from any volume for the use of the Accompanist only. This photocopy will be destroyed at the end of the class, **unless** the photocopy has been supplied with proof of official authorisation from the publisher. It is the competitor's own responsibility to ensure they have sought permission to make a photocopy from any copyright holder and, if requested, to then furnish the Festival with this written permission.
18. In all **Vocal** classes, a published copy of any 'Own Choice' music must also be provided on the day of competition for the use of the Adjudicator - words only cannot be accepted. Copies of music to be used by the Adjudicator must be handed to the Festival administrator before the commencement of the class. All copies will be returned at the end of the class/session.
19. Performances using music from shows in current production are subject to Copyright Law. Songs from shows in current production may, however, be sung without copyright permission as a concert item, i.e. with no costume or choreographed movement. Where such movement or costume is included in a performance, copyright permission is required. The Festival Committee accepts all entries on the basis that the appropriate copyright permission has been sought. Performers and Teachers with queries on how to obtain copyright permission for performance items should contact Festivals House on 01625 428297 before entering.

20. In all 'Own Choice' classes full details of title(s) and composer(s) of the piece(s) must be stated on the entry form; consequently, no alterations may be made after an entry has been accepted. 'Own Choice' pieces can be used once only by a competitor in the current Festival.
21. Competitors may enter once only in any solo class, and no more than twice in duets and trios, providing it is with different partners and performing a separate piece. In music making classes, they may perform twice, providing it is on a different instrument, or in classes with groups of 15 or more and they are regular members of the group.
22. In **OPEN** classes, it is expected that any 'Own Choice' piece will be a minimum of Grade 6 standard.
23. **NOVICE** classes are intended for performers who have not won a first prize in that particular discipline in a musical festival.

SPEECH RULES

24. In all 'Own Choice' classes full details of title and author must be stated on the entry form and a legible copy of work to be performed included. 'Own Choice' pieces can be used once only by a competitor in the current Festival.
25. The British and International Federation of Festivals has entered into an agreement with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society. This means that entrants do not have to seek copyright permission for any poetry, prose or dramatic items for a performance. Solo dramatic items must be announced at the time of performance to qualify for copyright indemnity, and the performer must not change the words or gender of the character.
26. In 'Write & Recite' classes the performer will write and recite their original poem. A legible copy of the poem for submission to the Adjudicator must be sent to the Entries Secretary by 31st January, with confirmation of authorship from a parent or teacher. The Adjudicator will award a mark and then add further marks for the spoken work on the day of the performance and will balance out all the elements, written and spoken.
27. A person may enter only once in any class, **except** in school production classes, when they may perform twice, providing it is in a different piece.
28. Reading from text is only permitted in 'Prepared Reading' classes.

PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY

29. Any person making an entry to the Festival is reminded that in so doing they agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the South Cumbria Musical Festival's Rules, and all other policies set by the Festival.

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

DATA PROTECTION

30. The Festival intends to use the personal data collected on the entry system in accordance with the South Cumbria Musical Festival Privacy Notice. When making an entry please note you state that you agree to your personal data being held on the Festival database and used in accordance with the Festival's Rules and Regulations for the management and running of the South Cumbria Musical Festival.

<p>THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE'S DECISION, IN ALL QUESTIONS OR DISPUTES NOT COVERED BY THESE RULES, SHALL BE FINAL.</p>
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