



The 78th Festival

15th – 17th October 2026

Syllabus

Entries open 17th April 2026

Closing date for entries 7th July 2026 at 12.00 noon.

Please follow the link below to the online entry portal

<https://holmfirthmf.runmyfestival.net/runMyFestival/security/welcome.jsf>

Welcome to the 2026 syllabus.

We have added a number of new classes this year and made some changes to last year's classes too. Please read the syllabus carefully before entering.

Any enquiries should be directed to info@hmf.org.uk this is also where digital copies of the music, where required, should be sent.

Hard copies of music, where required, should be sent to: HMF, c/o 22 Ingdale Drive, Holmfirth, HD9 1AT

We look forward to accepting your entries and meeting you at the Festival.

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO CLASSES

Classes 1 to 7: Rules

Conducting of solo performers is not allowed. If the piece was composed to be performed with accompaniment (piano, orchestra or band) then it should be performed with piano accompaniment. Performers may bring their own accompanists.

Please indicate on the entry form if you would like to use the Festival Accompanist

At time of entry please send:

- *A digital copy of the piece for the Accompanist*
- *A hard copy through the post.*
- *Please label both of these with the performer's name and the class number.*

This year classes 1 and 2 will take the format of a workshop run by the Adjudicator and Festival Accompanist on a non competitive basis. Performers will receive verbal feedback and a certificate of participation.

Class 1 Solo instruments beginners (excluding piano)

Open to performers age 7 and under

Own choice piece, maximum performance duration: 2 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 2 Solo instruments beginners (excluding piano)

Open to performers age 8 and over, including adults

Own choice piece, maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 3 Solo instruments (excluding piano)

Open to school year 1 and 2

Own choice piece, maximum performance duration: 3 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 4 Solo instruments (excluding piano)

Open to school year 3 to 6

Own choice piece, maximum performance duration: 3 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 5 Solo instruments (excluding piano)

Open to school year 7 to 9

Own choice piece, maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 6 Solo instruments (excluding piano)

Open to school year 10 to 13

Own choice piece, maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 7 Solo instruments (excluding piano)

Open to age 17 and above

Own choice piece, maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE CLASSES

Classes 8 to 12 rules:

Please state the ensemble name and the number of performers on the entry form.

Ensembles may be conducted or uncondacted. Players must be amateur, but the conductor may be a professional.

Music stands will be provided.

Please note that there is no warm up space at the Civic Hall.

*An original copy of the music score **MUST** be brought on the day for the adjudicator.*

Class 8 Instrumental ensemble, 2 to 20 players school year 6 and under

One or two own choice pieces

Maximum performance duration: 6 minutes

Entry fee: £10.00

Class 9 Instrumental ensemble, 2 to 20 players school year 9 and under

One or two own choice pieces

Maximum performance duration: 6 minutes

Entry fee: £10.00

Class 10 Instrumental ensemble, 2 to 20 players school year 11 and under

One or two own choice pieces

Maximum performance duration: 6 minutes

Entry fee: £10.00

Class 11 Instrumental ensemble, 2 to 20 players age 18 and under

Open to young people aged 18 or under on October 20th 2026

One or two own choice pieces

Maximum performance duration: 6 minutes

Entry fee: £10.00

Class 12 Instrumental ensemble, 2 or more players open to all ages

One or two own choice pieces

Maximum performance duration: 6 minutes

Entry fee: £10.00

PIANO CLASSES

Classes 13 to 22 rules:

You do not need to send a copy of the music at this stage.

*An original copy of the music **MUST** be brought on the day for the adjudicator.*

Performers can enter a maximum of 2 solo classes

This year piano classes are open to performers of all ages, including adults, with the classes arranged by grade level.

Class 13 Piano solo beginners non-competitive all ages

Open to performers who have been learning for less than a year

Own choice piece, maximum performance duration: 2 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 14 Piano solo Initial and Grade 1

Open to all ages

One own choice piece from any Initial or Grade 1 anthology

Maximum performance duration: 3 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 15 Piano solo Grade 2 and 3

Open to all ages

One own choice piece from any Grade 2 or Grade 3 anthology

Maximum performance duration: 3 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 16 Piano solo Grade 4 and 5

Open to all ages

One own choice piece from any Grade 4 or Grade 5 anthology

Maximum performance duration: 5 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 17 Piano solo Grade 6 and 7

Open to all ages

One own choice piece from any Grade 6 or Grade 7 anthology

Maximum performance duration: 5 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 18 Piano solo Grade 8 or above

Open to all ages

One own choice piece of Grade 8 or above.

Maximum performance duration: 5 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 19 Piano duet school year 9 and under

Open to school year 9 and under

One own choice piece

Maximum performance duration: 5 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 20 Piano duet open to all ages

Open to all ages

One own choice piece

Maximum performance duration: 5 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 21 Piano recital grade 3 to 6

Open to all ages

Own choice of up to 3 contrasting pieces

Entertainment, interpretation and performance technique will all be taken into consideration.

Maximum performance duration: 10 minutes

Entry fee: £8.00

YOUNG VOICE CLASSES

Classes 22-34 rules:

All vocal classes will be accompanied by the Festival's Accompanist.

At time of entry please send:

- *A digital copy of the piece for the Accompanist*
- *A hard copy through the post.*
- *Please label both of these with the performer's name and the class number.*

In the Music Theatre and Disney classes, the piece must be sung as a concert item without costume, props or choreography.

Class 22 Solo voice school year 5 and under

One own choice song (excluding Musical Theatre, Disney and Pop)

Maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

The winner of this class will automatically be entered for class 27

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 23 Solo voice school year 6 and 7

One own choice song (excluding Musical Theatre, Disney and Pop)

Maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

The winner of this class will automatically be entered for class 27

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 24 Solo voice school year 8 and 9

One own choice song (excluding Musical Theatre, Disney and Pop)

Maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

The winner of this class will automatically be entered for class 27

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 25 Solo voice school year 10 and 11

One own choice song (excluding Music Theatre, Disney and Pop)

Maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

The winner of this class will automatically be entered for class 27

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 26 Solo voice school year 12 and 13

One own choice song (excluding Music Theatre, Disney and Pop)

Maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

The winner of this class will automatically be entered for class 27

Entry fee: £8.00

Class 27 Junior Rosebowl Challenge

Qualifying winners in classes 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 will perform their winning songs.

Class 28 Music Theatre school year 6 and under

Own choice song from a 20th/21st century musical

Maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

Entry fee £8.00

Class 29 Music Theatre school year 7 to 9

Own choice song from a 20th/21st century musical.

Maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

Entry fee £8.00

Class 30 Music Theatre school year 10 to 13

Own choice song from a 20th/21st century musical.

Maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

Entry fee £8.00

Class 31 Songs from Walt Disney school year 6 and under

Own choice Disney song

Maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

Entry fee £8.00

Class 32 Songs from Walt Disney school year 7 to 9

Own choice Disney song.

Maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

Entry fee £8.00

Class 33 Songs from Walt Disney school year 10 to13

Own choice Disney song

Maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

Entry fee £8.00

Class 34 Pop Ballad school year 9-13

Own choice Pop Ballad

Maximum performance duration: 5 minutes

Performers may either use a backing track, the Festival Accompanist, or be self-accompanied (but not unaccompanied). The choice of accompaniment must be stated on the entry form. A microphone will be provided.

Performers must ensure that the lyrics are suitable for a family audience.

Entry fee £8.00

ADULT VOICES – age 18 years and over

Classes 35 -43 rules:

All vocal classes will be accompanied by the Festival's Accompanist.

At time of entry please send:

- *A digital copy of the piece for the Accompanist*
- *A hard copy through the post.*
- *Please label both of these with the performer's name and the class number.*

Class 35 Solo voice: English art song, all voices

Own choice piece (not from a choral work, stage work or film)

Maximum performance duration: 6 minutes

Entry fee: £9.00

Class 36 Operatic solo

Own choice piece from an opera which must be in the original key

Maximum performance duration: 6 minutes

Entry fee: £9.00

Class 37 Oratorio solo

Own choice piece from an oratorio which must be in the original key

Maximum performance duration: 6 minutes

Entry fee: £9.00

Class 38 Dual language song class

Two own choice pieces both to be performed in different languages not including English.

Maximum performance duration: 8 minutes

Entry fee: £9.00

Class 39 Senior Rosebowl Competition

Qualifying winners **in classes 35, 36, 37 and 38 will perform their winning pieces.**

Class 40 Light Opera

Own choice piece which must be in the original key

Maximum performance duration: 6 minutes

Entry fee: £9.00

Class 41 Folk Song

Own choice piece, unaccompanied or self-accompanied

Maximum performance duration: 4 minutes

Entry fee: £9.00

Class 42 Music Theatre

Own choice piece from any 20th/21st century musical.

Maximum performance duration: 6 minutes

Entry fee: £9.00

Class 43 Recital Class

Open to performers school year 12 and above, including adults.

Own choice of 3 contrasting songs or arias.

Maximum Performance duration: 12 minutes

Entry fee £10.00

CHOIRS AND VOCAL ENSEMBLES

Please note that there is an upper limit of 40 singers per choir.

The Festival Accompanist will not be used for choral and ensemble classes

Classes 44 -47 rules:

Please state the ensemble name and the number of performers on the entry form.

Ensembles may be conducted or uncondacted. Performers must be amateur, but the conductor may be a professional.

Please note that there is no warm up space at the Civic Hall.

*An original copy of the music **MUST** be brought on the day for the adjudicator.*

Class 44 Family Class

Open to two or more members of the same family, representing at least two different generations.

One or two own choice pieces (vocal and/or instrumental)

Maximum performance duration: 8 minutes

one year.

Entry fee: £10.00.

Class 45 Junior Choir class, school year 6 and below

One or two own choice pieces

Maximum performance duration: 8 minutes

Entry fee: 15.00

Class 46 Youth Choirs members age 21 and under

Own choice of two contrasting pieces

Maximum performance duration: 8 minutes

Entry fee: £15.00

Class 47 Choir Challenge

Open to adult and community choirs

Own choice of two contrasting pieces

Maximum performance duration: 10 minutes

Entry fee £15.00

Entries will be accepted in order of receipt up to the available capacity of the hall.

This class will take place either on Thursday evening October 15th or Saturday evening October 17th.

Class 48: The Rotary Club of Holmfirth Millennium Trophy.

This class was originated in 2000 by the Rotary Club of Holmfirth, who kindly donated the trophy and ten years' prizes. A prize of £250, now donated anonymously, will be awarded to the winner of this class. Designed to encourage young musicians originally living in the Rotary Club area to follow their pursuit of musical excellence, it is now open to competitors who:

- have been resident for at least two out of the past eight years in the geographical area within 7 miles of the centre of Holmfirth or have performed previously at this Festival on at least three occasions.
- will be between 14 and 25 years of age on October 1st 2026.
- have not previously won this trophy.
- agree that the prize money will be used to further their musical studies.

- **A letter should be submitted with the entry outlining:**
 1. the musical background of the performer (indicating membership of choirs/orchestras/bands and for how long; any awards or other successes; any particular musical interests).

2. the address(es) of the performer during the past eight years and details of any previous entries in this Festival.
3. the proposed use of the prize (for example: payment of tuition fees, purchase of appropriate music, attendance fees on training courses). Payment of the prize will be conditional on its appropriate use.
4. a balanced own-choice programme not exceeding **15 minutes** total duration which the performer will present. Details of pieces to be performed should be given, including titles, composers, and the sources i.e. the name of the work from which the piece is taken, if relevant. Once submitted, the programme pieces cannot be changed.

Entries will be considered by the Committee who reserve the right not to accept those that do not fulfil the criteria above, or those unlikely to reach an appropriate standard of Grade 8 or above.

Performers may be either vocalists or instrumentalists.

Performers may bring their own accompanist or may use the services of the Festival's official accompanist – this must be indicated on the entry form. A **legible hard copy** of the pieces to be performed for the adjudicator (and Festival accompanist if required) must be sent at the time of entry marked clearly with:

- the performer's name
- the class number
- the title and composer of the piece (and source, if appropriate)

If the performer chooses to use the Festival accompanist, arrangements may be made by mutual agreement to rehearse before the Festival takes place.
Entry Fee £15.00.