



Leicester MusicFest

Perform. Educate. Inspire.

11th Annual Festival

2027 COMPETITION SYLLABUS

PIANO, SINGING, COMPOSITION,
& 'JUST FOR FUN' CLASSES
(ORGAN COMPETITION TBC)

www.leicestermusicfest.com

Registered Charity no.1186629

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Visit our website to enter online:

www.leicestermusicfest.com

Visit the website for all up-to-date information.

Online entries open on 1st October 2026.

The closing date for entries is 1st December 2026.

Entries for each class will close when capacity is reached,
so please complete your entry as soon as possible.

2027 Organ events: Saturday 30th January – *Venue TBC

All other Festival events: 13th & 14th February 2027
at English Martyrs’ School, Anstey Lane, Leicester LE4 0FJ

Contact Details

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Welcome from the Leicester MusicFest Team

A huge thank-you to all our supporters and friends for a memorable 10th anniversary celebration Festival earlier this year. It was a wonderful reflection on a decade of musical memories in our much-loved city. As we look to our 11th annual Festival in 2027, we are contending with the distressing news of the severe fire damage to our valued partner venue, St Andrew's, Jarrom Street. Please bear with us as we investigate an alternative venue for our Organ events this year. We will publish the Organ syllabus shortly, once details are confirmed. Meanwhile, please keep an eye on our website and social media pages for updates. Come what may, we will again meet in the new year to celebrate the joy of live music-making and our shared belief in the importance of music education for all.

All our activities aspire to enrich the cultural life of our wonderful, diverse city, offering opportunities for amateur musicians of all ages to perform, learn and be inspired to progress in their musical journeys. We are committed to a policy of free entry to workshops and concerts for under-19s, and this year entry by suggested donation for adults, making the Festival

accessible to the whole community. The Festival weekend offers a wide variety of workshops and concerts, so please immerse yourself in the music and explore everything that Leicester MusicFest has to offer. **If you need help with any aspect of the entry process, please don't hesitate to contact us via info@leicestermusicfest.com.**

We look forward to receiving your entries!
Leicester MusicFest Trustees



John Gull



Avalon Summerfield



Jonathan Jarvis



Roxanne Gull



Chris Hiam



Melanie Settle



Dr Lucy Bleazard

PIANO COMPETITION

Saturday 13th February 2027

ENTRY FEES FOR THE PIANO COMPETITION

Classes P1: £6.30

Classes P2 and P5: £7.50

Classes P3 and P6: £8.70

Classes P4 and P7: 10.00

Class P8: £11.00

PIANO CLASSES

- No age restrictions.
- Pieces must be fully notated: no improvisations except ornaments and cadenzas.
- Competitors must enter the class(es) most appropriate to their grade, i.e. they should be able to play to that standard, but must not yet have passed a grade higher than that specified.
- Competitors may enter classes of two different but adjacent grade levels if eligible (e.g. Elementary and Intermediate) but may not enter classes of more than two grade levels in the same discipline (e.g. one competitor may not enter Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced Piano classes). Competitors may not enter two classes of non-adjacent grade levels (e.g. Elementary and Advanced). If there is uncertainty about eligibility for particular classes, competitors should make an enquiry via the website, and we will be happy to advise.
- Competitors' chosen piece(s) must be of a standard that lies within the grade boundaries specified for each class entered. Pieces may be chosen from a current or past exam syllabus (e.g. ABRSM) or may be own-choice, provided they are of an equivalent level. If there is uncertainty about the grade level of a certain piece, competitors should make an enquiry about the piece via the website before submitting their entry.
- We recognise that, particularly for early-stage musicians, it can be difficult to decide on a piece several months in advance of the performance. Therefore, although competitors must specify their repertoire at the time of entry, they can change their repertoire via their Leicester MusicFest Dashboard, until midnight on the 13th December 2026, provided they also submit the new sheet music by that deadline. **We cannot accept repertoire changes after this date.** Any competitor who does change their repertoire on the competition day will still be able to participate and receive feedback, but will not be eligible for First Place in that class.

Class P1 - FOUNDATION PIANO SOLO

One piece, own choice. Grade 2 or below.

Maximum 2 minutes.

Class P2 - ELEMENTARY PIANO SOLO

One piece, own choice. Grade 3-4.

Maximum 3 minutes.

Class P3 - INTERMEDIATE PIANO SOLO - The winner of this class will perform in the Gala Concert on the evening of Sunday 14th February at English Martyrs' School.

One piece, own choice. Grade 5-6.

Maximum 5 minutes.

Class P4 - ADVANCED PIANO SOLO – The winner of this class will perform in the Gala Concert on the evening of Sunday 14th February at English Martyrs' School.

One piece, own choice. Grade 7 and above.

Maximum 6 minutes.

Class P5 - FOUNDATION PIANO RECITAL

Two contrasting pieces, own choice. Grade 2 or below.

Maximum 3 minutes total.

Class P6 - ELEMENTARY PIANO RECITAL

Two contrasting pieces, own choice. Grade 3-4.

Maximum 5 minutes total.

Class P7 - INTERMEDIATE PIANO RECITAL

Two contrasting pieces, own choice. Grade 5-6.

Maximum 7 minutes total.

Class P8 - ADVANCED PIANO RECITAL – The winner of this class will perform at the Gala Concert on the evening of Sunday 14th February at English Martyrs' School.

Two contrasting pieces, own choice. Grade 7 and above.

Maximum 9 minutes total.

PIPE ORGAN COMPETITION *(Venue TBC)

Saturday 30th January 2027

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE DEVASTATING FIRE AT ST ANDREW'S, JARROM STREET, WE ARE YET TO ESTABLISH A REVISED VENUE FOR THIS YEAR'S ORGAN EVENTS. ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED ONCE VENUE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE.

ENTRY FEES FOR THE PIPE ORGAN COMPETITION

Class O1: £8.70

Class O2: £10.00

PIPE ORGAN CLASSES

- No age restrictions.
- Pieces must be fully notated: no improvisations except ornaments and cadenzas.
- Competitors must enter the class(es) most appropriate to their grade, i.e. they should be able to play to that standard, but must not yet have passed a grade higher than that specified.
- Competitors' chosen piece(s) must be of a standard that lies within the grade boundaries specified for each class entered. Pieces may be chosen from a current or past exam syllabus (e.g. ABRSM) or may be own-choice, provided they are of an equivalent level. If there is uncertainty about the grade level of a certain piece, competitors should make an enquiry about the piece via the website before submitting their entry.
- Competitors will be allocated a brief practice session on the competition day or the day before, during which they can familiarise themselves with the instrument and save registration settings.
- A page-turner/registrand will be available to assist during both the practice sessions and the performance. Any registration instructions must be marked clearly on your copy and discussed in advance with the registrand. A specification of the organ is available at the end of this document.
- We recognise that, particularly for early-stage musicians, it can be difficult to decide on a piece several months in advance of the performance. Therefore, although competitors must specify their repertoire at the time of entry, they can change their repertoire via their Leicester MusicFest Dashboard, until midnight on the 13th December 2026, provided they also submit the new sheet music by that deadline. **We cannot accept repertoire changes after this date.** Any competitor who does change their repertoire on the competition day will still be able to participate and receive feedback, but will not be eligible for First Place in that class.

Class O1 - ELEMENTARY/INTERMEDIATE ORGAN SOLO

One piece, own choice. Grade 5 or below.

Maximum 5 minutes.

Class O2 - ADVANCED ORGAN SOLO - The winner of this class will perform in the Gala Concert on the evening of Sunday 14th February at English Martyrs' School.

One piece, own choice. Grade 6 and above.

Maximum 8 minutes.

SINGING COMPETITION

Sunday 14th February 2027

ENTRY FEES FOR THE SINGING COMPETITION

Class S1: £7.50

Classes S2, S4 and S6: £8.70

Classes S3, S5, S7 and S8: £10.00

SINGING CLASSES

- Competitors entering classes with an age restriction must be within the given age limit on the 13th February 2027.
- Songs, and any accompaniment part, must be fully notated: no improvisations except cadenzas and ornaments.
- Singers should ideally perform from memory.
- Microphones and backing tracks may not be used.
- For the purposes of this competition, 'Art Song' includes any song in the Western Art Music tradition, including but not restricted to: lyric song in any European language, operatic arias, lieder, and folk song settings. If there is uncertainty about the suitability of a certain song, competitors should make an enquiry about the song via the website before submitting their entry.
- For the purposes of this competition, 'Stage & Screen' includes any song from the Musical Theatre or Music Hall traditions, as well as film and television themes, including Disney. If there is uncertainty about the suitability of a certain song, competitors should make an enquiry about the song via the website before submitting their entry.
- Competitors must enter the class(es) most appropriate to their grade, i.e. they should be able to sing to that standard, but must not yet have passed a grade higher than that specified.
- Competitors may enter classes of two different but adjacent grade levels if eligible (e.g. Elementary and Intermediate) but may not enter classes of more than two grade levels in the same discipline (e.g. one competitor may not enter Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced Art Song classes). Art Song and Stage & Screen count as separate disciplines.
- Competitors may not enter two classes of non-adjacent grade levels in the same discipline (e.g. Elementary and Advanced Art Song). If there is uncertainty about eligibility for particular classes, competitors should make an enquiry via the website, and we will be happy to advise.
- Competitors' chosen song(s) must be of a standard that lies within the grade boundaries specified for each class entered. Songs may be chosen from a current or past exam syllabus (e.g. ABRSM) or may be own-choice, provided they are of an equivalent level. If there is uncertainty about the grade level of a certain piece, competitors should make an enquiry about the piece via

the website before submitting their entry.

- We recognise that, particularly for early-stage musicians, it can be difficult to decide on a piece several months in advance of the performance. Therefore, although competitors must specify their repertoire at the time of entry, they can change their repertoire via their Leicester MusicFest Dashboard, until midnight on the 13th December 2026, provided they also submit the new sheet music by that deadline. **We cannot accept repertoire changes after this date.** Any competitor who does change their repertoire on the competition day will still be able to participate and receive feedback, but will not be eligible for First Place in that class.
- Competitors requiring an accompanist are welcome to use one of our Festival Accompanists, at a cost of £6.50 per class. Competitors may alternatively use their own choice of accompanist, in which case they are responsible for arranging this, and negotiating fees on a private basis.
- If a rehearsal with a Festival Accompanist is desired in advance of the competition, an enquiry must be made via the contact details provided. Accompanist contact details, along with a deadline for rehearsal requests, will be sent out to competitors by email after entries close. Festival Accompanists will endeavour to make themselves available for a rehearsal, but this cannot be guaranteed. Fees for any rehearsal should be negotiated with the Festival Accompanist on a private basis.
- **If using a Festival Accompanist, sheet music must be submitted (online via your MusicFest Dashboard) no later than 13th December 2026.**
- Having engaged a Festival Accompanist, the competitor is obliged to use this service for the class. Failure to do so will not entitle the competitor to a refund of any fee paid.

Class S1 - ELEMENTARY SOLO SONG – 18 AND UNDER (ART SONG, or STAGE & SCREEN)

One song, own choice. Grade 3 or below.

Maximum 3 minutes.

Class S2 - INTERMEDIATE ART SONG SOLO – 18 AND UNDER

One song, own choice. Grade 4-5.

Maximum 5 minutes.

Class S3 - ADVANCED ART SONG SOLO – 18 AND UNDER

The winner of this class will perform in the Gala Concert on the evening of Sunday 14th February at English Martyrs' School.

One song, own choice. Grade 6 and above.

Maximum 7 minutes.

Class S4 - INTERMEDIATE STAGE & SCREEN SOLO – 18 AND UNDER

One song, own choice. Grade 4-5.

Maximum 5 minutes

Class S5 - ADVANCED STAGE & SCREEN SOLO – 18 AND UNDER

The winner of this class will perform in the Gala Concert on the evening of Sunday 14th February at English Martyrs' School.

One song, own choice. Grade 6 and above.

Maximum 7 minutes.

Class S6 - INTERMEDIATE SOLO SONG – 16 AND OVER (ART SONG, or STAGE & SCREEN)

One song, own choice. Grade 5 or below.

Maximum 5 minutes.

Class S7 - ADVANCED ART SONG SOLO – 16 AND OVER

The winner of this class will perform in the Gala Concert on the evening of Sunday 14th February at English Martyrs' School.

One song, own choice. Grade 6 and above.

Maximum 7 minutes.

Class S8 - ADVANCED STAGE & SCREEN SOLO – 16 AND OVER

The winner of this class will perform in the Gala Concert on the evening of Sunday 14th February at English Martyrs' School.

One song, own choice. Grade 6 and above.

Maximum 7 minutes

COMPOSITION COMPETITION

All entrants receive detailed written feedback from an industry expert; First Prize winners also receive an individual mentoring session.

Submission Deadline: 1st December 2026

ENTRY FEES FOR THE COMPOSITION COMPETITION

Class C1: £7.90

Class C2: £9.40

Eligibility

- This is a competition for amateur composers only. C2 entrants may earn income from other musical work such as teaching or directing, but must not have earned any significant income from composition, nor have had their work commercially published.
- Competitors entering classes with an age restriction must be within the given age limit on the submission deadline (1st December 2026).
- Entrants must reside either in Leicestershire or in any of the following surrounding counties: Rutland, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire.

COMPOSITION CLASSES

- Adjudication will take into account both creative and technical elements, and the technical feasibility of performance by the instruments chosen. This competition aims to encourage the composition of new, useable music which is realistically performable by live musicians in a range of contexts.
- Compositions may be divided into more than one section or movement (see below for time limits).
- Competitors may compose for any combination of unamplified instruments (and/or voices), which use conventional 5-line staff notation.
- Modified instruments are not allowed, e.g. prepared piano, voice changer etc.
- Submitted compositions must have been composed within the 12 months preceding the submission deadline, and must not have been commercially published or commissioned for a fee. However, compositions which have been submitted for GCSE, A-Level or other exam syllabuses can be entered.
- Competitors may enter both classes if eligible, but may not enter the same piece in both classes.
- Submissions must be easily legible, and may be handwritten or written using notation software.
- Submissions must include an audio file (mp3 or link to audio). The audio can be a computer recording or a live recording.

- You must also provide **one** of the following supporting files:
 - A score in conventional staff notation (typeset in e.g. Sibelius, MuseScore, Noteflight) exported as PDF.
 - Leadsheet (i.e. topline/melody with a recognised chord notation) exported as PDF
 - A screen recording of your DAW (e.g. Logic, GarageBand, Ableton) with a complete live playback of your composition.
- The outcome of the adjudication will be announced several weeks before the Festival, and all competitors will receive written feedback from an expert adjudicator. The winners of each class will be invited to attend the Gala Concert on Sunday 14th February 2027, to receive their awards in person.
- The audio file of the First Place winning compositions will be promoted on our website and social media, and will be available for visitors to experience via a listening station at the festival. First Place winners will also receive a one-to-one Zoom mentoring session with one of our composition adjudicators, an opportunity to receive further personalised feedback and professional tips for taking their composition further.

Class C1 – COMPOSITION COMPETITION (JUNIOR)

One piece, maximum 7 minutes (see further criteria above).

Competitors must be aged 18 or under on 1st December 2026.

Class C2 – COMPOSITION COMPETITION (OPEN)

One piece, maximum 7 minutes (see further criteria above).

No age restrictions.

‘JUST FOR FUN’ CLASSES (any instrument*)

Saturday 13th February 2027

These performance classes offer a non-competitive option for all ages and ability levels.

Our ‘Just for Fun’ classes aim to:

- Offer a stepping-stone to future participation in a competition class
- Cater to those who prefer a non-competitive space in which to share their progress
- Provide an opportunity to perform and receive feedback, for players of instruments not currently provided for in our competitive classes

All participants can expect a friendly and supportive environment in which to showcase their performance, with performance tips and verbal feedback from an expert professional musician. Performers in J1 will also receive a certificate of participation.

ENTRY FEES FOR THE ‘JUST FOR FUN’ CLASSES

Class J1: £6.30

Class J2: £7.50

Class J3: £8.70

‘JUST FOR FUN’ CLASSES

- Performers must be within the given age limit on the 1st February 2027.
- In J1, performers must not yet have passed an exam higher than Grade 1, and must play repertoire that is Grade 1 level or below. Performers in J1 must be aged **16 or under**. All of the following are very welcome:
 - Early beginner repertoire (e.g. for the piano, one-handed pieces, or pieces with only one hand position)
 - Pieces/studies/exercises from tutor books
 - Pieces from past or current Initial/Prep Test/Grade 1 syllabuses
 - Any equivalent own-choice repertoire
 - Pupil/teacher duets
 - Accompanied and unaccompanied pieces are equally welcome
- In J2, performers must be aged **16 or under**, and should play repertoire that is Grade 2 level or above. Duets and small ensembles are also welcome, including pupil/teacher and child/parent duets.

- In J3, any grade level of performer and repertoire is welcome, provided performers are aged **16 or over**. Duets and small ensembles are also welcome, as in J2 above.
 - Performers may only enter one 'Just for Fun' class.
 - Performers in J1 requiring an accompanist are welcome to use one of our Festival Accompanists, FREE OF CHARGE. Competitors may alternatively use their own choice of accompanist, in which case they are responsible for arranging this, and negotiating fees on a private basis.
 - Performers in J2 or J3 requiring an accompanist are welcome to use one of our Festival Accompanists, at a cost of £6.50. If a rehearsal with a Festival Accompanist is desired in advance of the event, a request must be made in advance via the accompanist contact details, which will be sent out to performers once entries close. Festival Accompanists will endeavour to make themselves available for a rehearsal, but this cannot be guaranteed. Fees for rehearsal should be negotiated with the Festival Accompanist on a private basis. Competitors may alternatively use their own choice of accompanist, in which case they are responsible for arranging this, and negotiating fees on a private basis.
 - **If using a Festival Accompanist, sheet music must be submitted (online via your MusicFest Dashboard) no later than 13th December 2026.**
 - Having engaged a Festival Accompanist, the performer is obliged to use this service for the class. Failure to do so will not entitle the performer to a refund of any fee paid.
- *Performers may play any instrument**, with the exception of electronic/amplified instruments (because these cannot be catered for in the venue). If you have any concerns about the practicalities of bringing or setting up your instrument, please get in touch and we will be happy to advise.

Class J1 – 'JUST FOR FUN' (FIRST STEPS) – 16 AND UNDER

One piece, Grade 1 or below, **any instrument**.

Maximum 3 minutes.

Class J2 – 'JUST FOR FUN' (JUNIOR) – 16 AND UNDER

One piece, Grade 2 or above, **any instrument**.

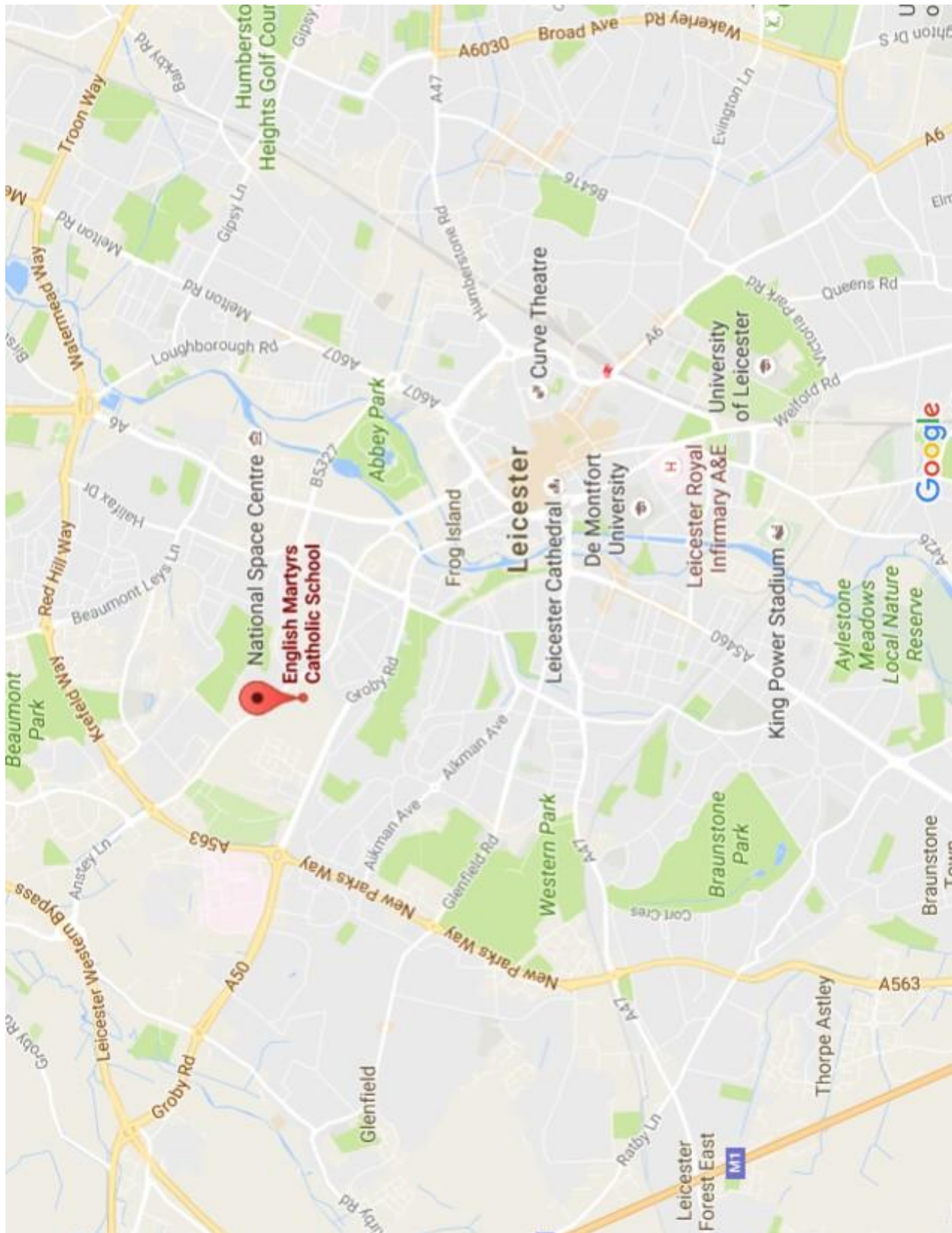
Maximum 7 minutes.

Class J3 – 'JUST FOR FUN' (SENIOR) – 16 AND OVER

One piece, any level, **any instrument**.

Maximum 7 minutes.

FESTIVAL MAP



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Principles

This policy is guided by the following principles:

- the safety of children and vulnerable adults is paramount, and every person attending Leicester MusicFest has the right to protection from abuse.
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- all MusicFest trustees and volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns.

Purpose and Function of the Festival

Leicester MusicFest was established to advance, promote and encourage the study and practice of the art of music. The Festival provides a platform for amateur performance combined with educational and performance elements from professional artists.

The Festival Environment

Leicester MusicFest is run entirely by volunteers. There is a Management Team whose members act as Trustees. The contact details of all Trustees are published annually in the MusicFest Syllabus and Programme, and are on our website.

The Festival is held in the City of Leicester, and this year the main venue is English Martyrs' Catholic School on Anstey Lane, with St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street as a secondary venue hosting our Organ events. The main venue has more than one public area, and other spaces or areas of the school may be in use by people not connected with Leicester MusicFest. All the Festival activity takes place in adjacent or near-adjacent buildings (the school's music department and Activity Studio), so there is no need for participants to move between distant areas of the premises during the Festival.

Leicester MusicFest will inform and involve parents / guardians / carers and teachers so as to act in partnership with them to ensure, as far as is reasonably practical, a safe environment for the enjoyment of Festival activities.

Applicability of this Policy

This policy relates to children under the age of 18 years and also to those vulnerable adults (of any age) who are identified to the organisers prior to their arrival at Leicester MusicFest. This should be done by contacting the Safety Officer, the name and contact details for whom may be found in the MusicFest syllabus and on our website. In recognising the needs of children from all ethnic groups and children who are disabled, the Leicester MusicFest actively seeks to meet needs notified to the Festival by parents / guardians / carers and/or teachers.

Festival Volunteers

The Management Team is elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. Volunteer helpers will not be taken on unless they are known personally to a Trustee or two trusted people have both confirmed that they are a suitable person. If any doubts are raised about someone, the Trustees will consider using the *Protection of Children Act List* process to confirm their suitability, but this process will not otherwise be used.

All MusicFest staff and volunteers wear a conspicuous lanyard/T-shirt. If a problem arises during the Festival, all staff and volunteers will do their utmost to help. All problems will be taken seriously and will be documented and dated.

Preparation for Attendance at the Festival

Where parents / guardians / carers are not personally attending with their children, this Policy requires them to be satisfied that their children will be accompanied to the Festival and adequately supervised by a responsible adult acting on their behalf.

Toilet Facilities and Practice Areas

Leicester MusicFest will not supervise the male and female toilets within the building. Practice Rooms will not be supervised by the Festival (and the Festival will not take responsibility for items left in those rooms).

Lost Child or Missing Person Procedure

Given that the main venue has multiple public areas and may be shared with people not connected to the Festival, the following protocol must be followed if a child or vulnerable adult is reported missing:

- **Immediate Action:** Any volunteer or trustee alerted to a missing person must immediately notify the Safety Officer or other member of the Management Team.
- **Search Protocol:** Designated volunteers wearing conspicuous lanyards or T-shirts will be assigned to check the music department, Activity Studio, and adjacent buildings.
- **External Entrances:** Volunteers will be stationed at the main exits of the venue to ensure the individual does not leave the premises unaccompanied.
- **Unsupervised Areas:** Specific attention will be given to searching areas not actively supervised by the Festival, such as toilets and practice rooms
- **Documentation:** In line with our policy on handling problems, the incident—including the time reported and the resolution—will be fully documented and dated.
- **Police Involvement:** If the individual is not located within 15 minutes, or if there is an immediate concern for their safety, the Safety Officer will contact the local police.

Photography, Recording and the Press

Photography, video and audio recording in any form and by any means is prohibited for any person except the official Festival Photographer during any performance.

Leicester MusicFest actively seeks publicity, and photographs may be taken for this purpose. Where parents / guardians / carers do not wish their children to be photographed then the responsible adult attending with those children should ensure that they are not included in any such photograph.

Professional Conduct and Digital Communication

To maintain a safe environment, all Leicester MusicFest trustees and volunteers are prohibited from contacting child participants or vulnerable adults directly through personal channels. This includes, but is not limited to, personal phone calls, text messages, private emails, and social media platforms. All necessary communication regarding the Festival's purpose—to promote the study and practice of music —must be conducted through official Leicester MusicFest accounts or via the participant's parent, guardian, or teacher. Any instance of a volunteer attempting to establish private contact with a participant must be reported to the Safety Officer and will be documented and dated as a safeguarding concern. It is the responsibility of all volunteers to maintain professional boundaries to ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults remains paramount.

Legislation that supports and guides this Policy

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, The Children Act 1989, The Police Act 1997, The Data Protection Act 2018, The Human Rights Act 1998, The Protection of Children Act 1999, The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, The Children Act 2004.

Reviewing the Policy

This Policy was last updated on 10th January 2026. Leicester MusicFest will continue to review this Policy and revise and enhance it as necessary. In so doing, the Management Team will look to the British and International Federation of Festivals for support. That body, in turn, will look to other agencies for good practice, most notably the NSPCC and Arts Council of England policy guidelines.

Contact Information

Safety Officer: Christopher Hiam, 100 Wigston Lane, Leicester LE2 8TN. Tel: 07904 703736.
Email: info@leicestermusicfest.com

Visit our website www.leicestermusicfest.com to enter online

COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The competitions are limited to non-professionals (amateurs). For the purpose of the Festival, professionals are defined as those who derive their main income from music performance or teaching.
2. In all classes competitors must state their name in full on the entry form. No entry is permissible under an assumed name.
3. **The closing date for entries is 1st December 2026.** Entries for each competition will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis, and entries for specific classes will be closed before the official closing date, should the capacity of the class be reached.
4. Leicester MusicFest reserves the right to cancel or combine classes, refuse any entry and to decide any matter not provided for in the rules. Leicester MusicFest is not obliged to refund fees under any circumstances except where a class is cancelled and cannot be merged with another class.
5. All competitors entering classes with an age restriction must not exceed the given age limits as set out in the regulations for each class. Leicester MusicFest reserves the right to request to view proof-of-age documentation.
6. The title and composer of all pieces to be performed must be stated accurately on the entry form. A copy of your chosen piece(s) must be handed to the Adjudicator's Clerk before the start of the class. No piece may be used in more than one class by the same competitor.
7. We recognise that, particularly for early-stage musicians, it can be difficult to decide on a piece several months in advance of the performance. Therefore, although competitors must specify their repertoire at the time of entry, they can change their repertoire via their Leicester MusicFest Dashboard, until midnight on the 13th December 2026, provided they also submit the new sheet music by that deadline. **We cannot accept repertoire changes after this date.** Any competitor who does change their repertoire on the competition day will still be able to participate and receive feedback, but will not be eligible for First Place in that class.
8. Competitors must enter the class(es) most appropriate to their grade, i.e. they should be able to perform to that standard, but must not yet have passed a grade higher than that specified.
9. Competitors' chosen piece(s) must fall within the grade boundaries specified for each class entered. Pieces may be chosen from a current or past exam syllabus (e.g. ABRSM), or may be own-choice, provided they are of an equivalent standard. If there is uncertainty about the grade level of a certain piece, competitors should make an enquiry about the piece via the website before submitting their entry.
10. Leicester MusicFest reserves the right to refuse a chosen piece if it is deemed to fall outside of the specified grade boundaries. In this case, competitors will be invited to substitute an

appropriate piece. This will incur no further fee. However, if the competitor does not offer an appropriate substitute piece, Leicester MusicFest is under no obligation to refund the entry fee.

11. Time limits must be observed. Competitors exceeding the time limit may, at the Adjudicator's discretion, have marks deducted or may be stopped and their performance judged to the point they have reached.

12. Repeats may be omitted at the discretion of the competitor, where this is deemed not to impede the music. D.S. and D.C. instructions should always be observed.

13. First and Second Prizes will be Certificates and Medals unless otherwise stated. No Prize or Certificate will be awarded unless a satisfactory standard is reached.

14. The Adjudicator's decision is final.

15. Photography, filming, video or sound recording is prohibited during any performance (except by an Official Photographer).

16. Music may be photocopied from published originals **for the use of the adjudicator only**. Photocopies for the adjudicator must be totally legible. All photocopies of music will be retained by Leicester MusicFest and destroyed. It is forbidden for an accompanist to perform from a photocopy, except to facilitate page turns or other practical considerations, in which case an original copy must be present in the competition room.

17. Competitors requiring an accompanist are welcome to use one of our Festival Accompanists, at a cost of £6.50 per class. Competitors may alternatively use their own choice of accompanist, in which case they are responsible for arranging this, and negotiating fees on a private basis.

18. Competitors who have requested a Festival Accompanist will be provided with their Accompanist's contact details after the competition entry deadline. Competitors are responsible for contacting their Accompanist to arrange any rehearsal before the competition day. Fees for any rehearsal should be negotiated with the Accompanist on a private basis.

19. If using a Festival Accompanist, sheet music must be submitted (online via your MusicFest Dashboard) no later than 13th December 2026.

20. Having engaged a Festival Accompanist, the competitor is obliged to use this service for the class. Failure to do so will not entitle the competitor to a refund of any fee paid.

21. Competitors are responsible for collecting their Mark Sheets, Certificates and sheet music at the end of each class.

22. Winners of Trophies will hold them for one year. They will be responsible for their care

and safe custody and for their return to the MusicFest organisers before 1st January in the year following the award.

23. Competitors under the age of 16 years on the day of the competition must be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for their care and safety at all times.

24. Competitors must arrive in good time for the beginning of their class, and should remain until the end of the adjudication of that class, unless they are required in another class at the same time. Competitors will be informed by email of exact class start times after all entries have been submitted. This information will also be available on the Festival website.

Visit our website

www.leicestermusicfest.com

to enter online and for more information.