

Adjudicator: Ben Costello MA PGDip BMus FRSA

Ben is a freelance musical director, adjudicator, singing coach and accompanist, working internationally. He is also Artistic Director of Thames Concerts, Founding Director of Kingston Chamber Singers, Chorus Master for the Leith Hill Musical Festival, and a lecturer in musical theatre at the University of Portsmouth. He is a generalist music adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals, having joined in 2009, and is happy to adjudicate online/virtual sessions when required.



A specialist in musical theatre, he has been musical director for numerous productions across the UK, and a reflective product of this has been his continuing work as a musical director and singing teacher in most of the major London performing-arts and music colleges (Arts Ed, Mountview Academy, Trinity Laban, Laine Theatre Arts, GSA, LAMDA, RAM, LCM, Drama Studio London). Countless of his former students enjoy successful careers in the West End and beyond.

Born and based in London, Ben trained initially as a flautist, and subsequently majored in piano, singing and conducting. He remains much sought-after as an accompanist in musical theatre repertoire but collaborates in a variety of genres with countless singers and instrumentalists in concerts and other performing environments.

Ben is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, organising and chairing the Company's annual musical direction scholarship. Outside of music, he is a keen motorcyclist, and rides a rather heavy Triumph Tiger Explorer 1200. For the Federation, in addition to his work as an adjudicator, he has been a Deputy on the Adjudicators' Council since 2014, and is also a member of the interviewing panel for potential new adjudicators.