

RICHMOND UPON THAMES  
PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL 2026

**Vocal Syllabus 2026**  
[www.richmondfestival.org.uk](http://www.richmondfestival.org.uk)

## SECTION SECRETARY – HEIDI PEGLER

[Richmondfestival.vocal@gmail.com](mailto:Richmondfestival.vocal@gmail.com)

## JULIA DEWHURST - ADJUDICATOR

**FTCL ARCM PGCA B.ED FISM FRSA**



A lyric-coloratura soprano, Julia Dewhurst's ongoing performing career has encompassed opera, concert and recital repertoire from Early Music to first performances of contemporary works. She has broadcast for BBC TV and Radio and has appeared in many of the UK's leading concert venues. Abroad, she has undertaken engagements in Germany, France, Spain, Holland, the Middle East and the Seychelles where she gave concerts and masterclasses in the Seychelles Festival of Classical Music.

On the opera stage she has appeared with the Royal Opera, ENO, Kent Opera, English Touring Opera, Pavilion Opera, European Chamber Opera, Opera East, London Opera Players and The Garden Opera Company. Her roles have included Susanna and the Countess (*The Marriage of Figaro*), Queen of the Night, Pamina and First Lady (*The Magic Flute*), Gilda (*Rigoletto*), Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Micaela (*Carmen*), Despina (*Così fan Tutte*), Constanza (*Die Entführung*), Norina (*Don Pasquale*), Miss Wordsworth (*Albert Herring*) Loelia in the premiere of Donald Swann's comic opera *The Man with the Thousand Faces*, and many of the Gilbert & Sullivan soprano roles.

Julia has extensive teaching experience across the entire age range. She was for many years a visiting singing specialist in a London primary school working at Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 levels and leading voice care workshops for teachers. Although her own career has been primarily centred on Classical repertoire, Julia has a deep interest in all vocal genres from Rock and Pop to Jazz and Music Theatre. She enjoys working with singers on the techniques underpinning voice production and on helping them to discover their own distinctive vocal personalities in performance. Julia also enjoys working with performers, both singers and instrumentalists, on developing their platform presentation skills and enhancing their awareness of effective communication with the audience.

She has been a much sought-after adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals for more than 20 years. She is a member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, the Association of Teachers of Singing, the British Voice Association, the Association of English Singers and Speakers, for whom she has judged both the Patricia Routledge Competition and the Courtney Kenny Award and she is a Friend of the Society of Teachers of the Alexander Technique.

## FESTIVAL ACCOMPANIST – OLIVIA TRAVERS

[OLIVIATRAVERS@MAC.COM](mailto:OLIVIATRAVERS@MAC.COM)

PLEASE CONTACT OLIVIA IF YOU WISH TO USE HER SERVICES (SEE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

## PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

### VOCAL SOLOS

**Adult Classes – Friday 27 February 2026 (evening from 6pm)**

**VENUE: Tagg's Yard, 23 Woodlands Road, Barnes, London SW13 0JZ**

**Junior Classes 13 years and under - Saturday 28 February 2026 (morning and afternoon)**

**Intermediate Classes 14-15 years - Saturday 28 February (evening); Sunday 1 March (morning)**

**Intermediate Classes 16-18 years - Sunday 1 March (afternoon and evening)**

**VENUE: St Luke's in the Avenue, Kew Community Centre, Richmond TW9 2AJ**

## ENTRY INFORMATION

### CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: SUNDAY 25 JANUARY (MIDNIGHT)

Please use the online entry system which can be found by going to our website

[www.richmondfestival.org.uk](http://www.richmondfestival.org.uk)

Fees are payable through the online system via Paypal or BACS

Although we will try to run all classes, if sufficient entries are not received we reserve the right to cancel classes and return fees paid. Richmond upon Thames Performing Arts Festival will hold data solely for the purpose of running the Festival.

**Please read this syllabus in conjunction with the Rules and Regulations for the Festival together with the Festival's Safeguarding Policy. Both documents are downloadable from the website**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Entry age as at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.
- Only one entry may be made in each class.
- Time limits are given and must be observed. A performance may be stopped if time limits are exceeded.
- Own choice titles must be stated on the entry form.
- All songs may be sung in a key suitable for young voices irrespective of the original key.
- Songs may be sung in English or the original language where required. Diction and pronunciation will be assessed by the adjudicator.
- An additional payment of £5 per song is required if using the official accompanist. Please send a copy of the music to the official accompanist at least three weeks before the competition date (contact details are on page 2). Music may be posted or scanned and emailed. Any repeats or cuts must be clearly marked on the copy. A chord chart with lyrics is not acceptable.
- An original copy of the music must be provided for the adjudicator on the day of the competition. A photocopy may be made for the use of the adjudicator provided that the competitor has already

purchased their own copy. The photocopy will be retained and destroyed by the Section Secretary immediately after the event.

- Whilst the Festival does not have an official dress code, competitors are reminded that dress should be appropriate for a platform or concert performance.

#### **Classes 1, 3, 7, 13, 18,**

Songs in a classical style include songs by Peter Jenkyns, Lin Marsh, John Rutter etc, aria antiche, art songs in English or a foreign language, lute songs, accompanied traditional/folksongs and spirituals, and opera and oratorio arias. They do not include hymns, carols, pop songs or music theatre songs. Singers should use the official accompanist or bring their own accompanist (backing tracks are not permitted for these classes)

#### **Classes 2, 6, 10, 16, 21, 30**

Songs from the Shows and Disney Songs – competitors are encouraged to have live accompaniment, however backing tracks can be used. Please bring this on a device (e.g. phone) along with your own portal speakers. Microphones are NOT permitted in these classes.

#### **Classes 11, 17, 22,**

Pop Music Solo – a microphone and amp will be provided. Competitors may accompany themselves in these classes. If you are using a backing track, please bring this on a device (e.g. phone) along with your own portal speakers. Pre-recorded vocals on the backing track are NOT permitted.

#### **Classes 4, 8, 14**

Set Song Classes – all songs must use the prescribed edition and key options. One of the main objectives is to see if all the musical detail written by the composer is observed.

### **SPECIAL AWARDS**

Young Singer Awards are made at the discretion of the adjudicator and are subject to the winner receiving a mark of Honours, Outstanding or Exceptional in at least one class. Previous first placed winners of each award are not eligible although it is possible for a winner of the Junior Award to go on to win the Young Singer Award etc.

Young Singer of the Year Award (£100) – this will be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator to a singer who is 14-18 years and who has participated in three or more classes in their age category.

Junior Young Singer of the Year Award (£50) – this will be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator to a singer who is 13 years and under and who has participated in three or more classes in their age category.

Kirkland Cup for Musical Theatre – this will be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator to an outstanding singer in the Songs from the Shows classes.

Boys' Challenge Cup (Junior)

Given to the most promising boy singer aged 11 and under

Girls' Challenge Cup (Junior)

Given to the most promising girl singer aged 11 and under

Janet Sodring Cup for Boy's Solo – 15 years and under

Given to the most outstanding performance by a boy in this age group

## JUNIOR SINGERS – 11 YEARS AND UNDER

Junior singers entering three or more classes will be eligible for consideration for the Junior Young Singer of the Year Award - £50

These classes are likely to be during the morning and afternoon of Saturday 28 February (subject to entry numbers)

<b>Class 1</b>	<b>Vocal Solo – 9 years and under</b> Own choice song in a classical style (no musical theatre or pop) Time limit: 3 mins	<b>£9</b>
<b>Class 2</b>	<b>Songs from the Shows and Disney Films – 9 years and under</b> A song from a musical show or film Material should be age appropriate. Backing tracks are permitted. Time limit: 3 mins	<b>£9</b>
<b>Class 3</b>	<b>Vocal Solo – 10-11 years</b> Own choice song in a classical style (no musical theatre or pop) Time limit: 3 mins	<b>£9</b>
<b>Class 4</b>	<b>Set Song – 11 years and under</b> Monsters by Lin Marsh – ABRSM Songbook Plus Grade 2	<b>£9</b>
<b>Class 5</b>	<b>Unaccompanied folksong – 11 years and under</b> (no carols, pop songs or hymns) Time limit: 3 mins	<b>£9</b>
<b>Class 6</b>	<b>Songs from the Shows and Disney Films – 10-11 years</b> A song from a musical show or film Material should be age appropriate. Backing tracks are permitted. Time limit: 3 mins	<b>£9</b>

## JUNIOR SINGERS – 12 -13 YEARS

Junior singers entering three or more classes will be eligible for consideration for the Junior Young Singer of the Year Award - £50

These classes are likely to be during the morning/afternoon/evening of Saturday 28 February  
(subject to entry numbers)

<b>Class 7</b>	<b>Classical Vocal Solo – 12-13 years</b> Own choice song in a classical style (no musical theatre or pop) Time limit: 3 mins	<b>£9</b>
<b>Class 8</b>	<b>Set Song – 12-13 years</b> The Path to the Moon – Eric Thiman (ABRSM Songbook Book 3; or 20 <sup>th</sup> century easy songbook collection (Boosey and Hawkes) – Ab major	<b>£9</b>
<b>Class 9</b>	<b>Unaccompanied folksong – 12-13 years</b> (no carols, pop songs or hymns) Time limit: 3 mins	<b>£9</b>
<b>Class 10</b>	<b>Songs from the Shows and Disney Films</b> A song from a musical show or film Material should be age appropriate. Backing tracks are permitted. Time limit: 3 mins	<b>£9</b>
<b>Class 11</b>	<b>Pop Music Solo – 13 years and under</b> Own choice pop song from any genre performed to piano or acoustic guitar or recorded accompaniment. No pre-recorded vocals are allowed on the backing track. A microphone and amp will be provided for this class and competitors are advised to use it. Time limit: 4 mins	<b>£9</b>
<b>Class 12</b>	<b>Vocal Duet or Trio – 13 years and under JUNIOR DUET CUP</b> Own choice in any style Time limit: 4 mins	<b>£12</b>

## INTERMEDIATE SINGERS – 14-15 YEARS

Intermediate singers entering three or more classes will be eligible for consideration for the Young Singer of the Year Award - £100

These classes are likely to be during the evening of Saturday 28 February or the afternoon of Sunday 1 March (subject to entry numbers)

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|-----------------|---|------------|
| <b>Class 13</b> | <b>Classical Vocal Solo – 14-15 years</b><br>Own choice song in a classical style (no musical theatre or pop)<br>Time limit: 4 mins   | <b>£12</b> |
| <b>Class 14</b> | <b>Set Song – 14-18 years</b><br>Homeward Bound –Keen arr. Jay Althouse – Folk Songs for Solo Singers Vol 1 (Alfred)<br>– F, Eb or D  | <b>£12</b> |
| <b>Class 15</b> | <b>Unaccompanied folksong – 14-15 years</b><br>(no carols, pop songs or hymns)<br>Time limit: 3 mins  | <b>£12</b> |
| <b>Class 16</b> | <b>Songs from the Shows and Disney Films – 14-15 years</b><br>A song from a musical show or film<br>Material should be age appropriate. Backing tracks are permitted.<br>Time limit: 4 mins   | <b>£12</b> |
| <b>Class 17</b> | <b>Pop Music Solo – 14-15 years</b><br>Own choice pop song from any genre performed to piano or acoustic guitar or recorded accompaniment. No pre-recorded vocals are allowed on the backing track. A microphone and amp will be provided for this class and competitors are advised to use it.<br>Time limit: 4 mins | <b>£12</b> |

## INTERMEDIATE SINGERS – 16-18 YEARS

Intermediate singers entering three or more classes will be eligible for consideration for the Young Singer of the Year Award - £100

These classes are likely to be during the afternoon/evening of Sunday 1 March (subject to entry numbers)

<b>Class 18</b>	<b>Classical Vocal Solo – 16-18 years</b> Own choice song in a classical style (no musical theatre or pop) Time limit: 4 mins	<b>£12</b>
<b>Class 19</b>	<b>Operatic or Oratorio Aria – 18 years and under</b> Own choice from an opera or oratorio (G&S is acceptable) Time limit: 5 mins	<b>£12</b>
<b>Class 20</b>	<b>Unaccompanied folksong – 16-18 years</b> (no carols, pop songs or hymns) Time limit: 3 mins	<b>£12</b>
<b>Class 21</b>	<b>Songs from the Shows and Disney Films – 16-18 years</b> A song from a musical show or film Material should be age appropriate. Backing tracks are permitted. Time limit: 4 mins	<b>£12</b>
<b>Class 22</b>	<b>Pop Music Solo – 16-18 years</b> Own choice pop song from any genre performed to piano or acoustic guitar or recorded accompaniment. No pre-recorded vocals are allowed on the backing track. A microphone and amp will be provided for this class and competitors are advised to use it. Time limit: 4 mins	<b>£12</b>
<b>Class 23</b>	<b>Vocal Duet or Trio –18 years and under – INTERMEDIATE DUET CUP</b> Own choice in any style Time limit: 5 mins	<b>£15</b>
<b>Class 24</b>	<b>Recital Class – 18 years and under</b> Two contrasting art songs (not operatic or oratorio arias) - One of the songs must be in a classical style; the other song can be in any style except for pop music. Presentation and performance skills will be taken into account along with the versatility and imagination of the programme chosen. Spoken introductions are recommended. Time limit: 10 mins	<b>£15</b>
<b>Class 25</b>	<b>Play and Sing – 18 years and under</b> A song in any style that is sung and accompanied by the singer (e.g. on a guitar or piano). This can include songs that have been written by the singer. Time limit: 4 min	<b>£12</b>



## SENIOR SINGERS – 19 YEARS AND OVER

These classes will take place on Friday 27 February from 6pm onwards at Tagg's Yard

- Class 26**      **Own Choice: Classical Art Song – ANNE BEVAN PLATE**      **£12**  
Sung in the original language  
Songs by English composers (e.g. Vaughan Williams, Howells, Holst etc), French composers (e.g. Faure, Duparc etc), German composers (e.g. Brahms, Schumann etc), Spanish composers (e.g. De Falla, Granados etc), Italian composers (e.g. Donizetti, Bellini), Russian composers (Tchaikovsky etc), Czech, Finnish, Danish, Icelandic, Swedish etc.  
Time limit: 5 mins
- Class 27**      **Own Choice: Operatic or Oratorio Aria – FRANK SALE OPERA CUP**      **£12**  
(can include Gilbert and Sullivan)  
Time limit: 5 mins
- Class 28**      **Open Vocal Solo – SENIOR VOCAL ROSE BOWL**      **£12**  
A song from any genre  
Time limit: 5 mins
- Class 29**      **Recital - SENIOR RECITAL CUP**      **£15**  
Two contrasting songs - One of the songs must be in a classical style; the other song can be in any style except for pop music. Presentation and performance skills will be taken into account along with the versatility and imagination of the programme chosen. Spoken introductions are recommended.  
Time limit: 10 mins
- Class 30**      **Songs from the Shows – THE GRIFFIN PARK DECANTER**      **£12**  
A song from a musical show or film  
Backing tracks are permitted – please bring this on your own device with a Bluetooth speaker.  
Time limit: 5 mins