

RICHMOND UPON THAMES PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL 2026

INSTRUMENTAL SYLLABUS 2026

www.richmondfestival.org.uk

SECRETARY OF THE INSTRUMENTAL SECTION: Julia Dräger

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ROBERT BAILEY AGSM, LRAM – ADJUDICATOR



Robert Bailey is a 'cellist, pianist and conductor. He attended the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and has enjoyed a varied career, having held principal positions at English National Opera, the Royal Philharmonic Pops orchestra, with whom he was first 'cellist, for ten years, and the Academy of London. He was for five years 'cellist in the Delme String Quartet which took him all over Europe, and with them he made several CDs, and broadcast frequently on BBC Radio 3. Robert has conducted in London with the Locrian Chamber Orchestra and the English National Orchestra, and he has conducted in Australia, giving the premiere of Larry Sitsky's Symphony with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra.

In the field of Education Robert Bailey teaches 'cello and piano, and has worked at the Royal College of Music and The Guildhall School of Music as an orchestral and chamber music coach, and taught for several years at London's Centre for Young Musicians where he was conductor of both the Symphony Orchestra and the String Chamber Orchestra. He is also much in demand as an adjudicator at competitive festivals all over the UK.

FESTIVAL DATES & PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Friday 20th March 2026 (6pm–9pm approx.)
Saturday 21st March 2026 (10am–6/7pm approx.)
Sunday 22nd March 2026 (10am–6pm approx.)

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

Friday evening:
Concerto Classes 140, 141, 142

Saturday morning:
Beginner and Intermediate Classes (Junior, Youth, Senior):
110, 108, 111, 121, 131, 120, 130

Saturday lunchtime:
Ensembles 101, 102, 103

Saturday afternoon:
Junior Recital 160, Friends and Family 105
Junior Advanced 112, Musical Versatility 150

Sunday morning:
Youth Advanced 122

Sunday afternoon:
Youth Recital 161, Senior Advanced 132,
Senior Recital 162

Venue: St Richard Reynolds Catholic College, Clifden Road, Twickenham, TW1 4LT

The College is a ten-minute walk from Twickenham railway station and the H22, 33, 267, 281, 290 and 490 bus routes. Parking available on site.

ENTRY INFORMATION

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: SUNDAY 25th January 2026 (MIDNIGHT)
For enquiries regarding late entries please email the Instrumental Secretary

Please use the online entry system "Play and Perform" which can be found on our website
www.richmondfestival.org.uk

Fees are payable through the online system via Paypal

For the first time, if the number of entries for any class is particularly high, numbers may be capped and a waiting list set up.

If anyone already accepted withdraws, their place will be offered to the next person on the list.

We will try to run all classes, but, if sufficient entries are not received for a certain class, we reserve the right to cancel it 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 can be downloaded from the website.

Special Awards

YOUNG INSTRUMENTALIST OF THE YEAR 2026:

Award £100 for any orchestral instrumentalist – Strings, Wind or Brass.
2nd place - £50.

Performers must be of school age, and must enter two classes, one of which MUST be a recital class. Young Instrumentalist Awards are made at the discretion of the adjudicator and are subject to the winner receiving a mark of Distinction or Outstanding. Previous first placed winners of this award are not eligible. The winners will be expected to perform at the Festival Showcase in April/May when the cash awards will be presented.

THE RICHMOND BOROUGH CUP

This will be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator to the outstanding player in the Instrumental Section who is resident in the borough of Richmond upon Thames or attends school/college or has music lessons within the borough. All awards are made at the adjudicator's discretion.

Additional Information

TIMETABLING: Provisional times and days for each class are fixed in advance as outlined above to help everyone with planning. Please note that, depending on the number of entries, the exact schedule and the order of classes may be adjusted.

NOTIFICATIONS: Notifications will be by email only. Performers will be given approximately two weeks' notice of the class start time of their competition.

CLASS ENTRY POLICY: To ensure the best possible experience for everyone, the number of places in each class may have to be limited. Depending on how many people enter, we may need to:

- Combine smaller classes,
- Divide larger classes, or
- Cap entries if demand is extremely high.

We strongly recommend entering as early as possible to secure your place and avoid disappointment.

If a class is full, you can join a waiting list. If someone withdraws, we will offer their place to the next person on the list. This will help us keep the festival well-organised and enjoyable for all participants.

MULTIPLE CLASS ENTRIES

Entrants may enter the same class on different instruments as long as they are from different instrument categories (strings, wind, brass, harp). So violin and trumpet would be allowed but violin and viola would not.

Entrants who wish to enter the same class on multiple instruments from the same instrument category may do so but only one of the entries will be graded and eligible for prizes. Any other entries will be for feedback only. If you wish to do this please contact the Instrument Secretary. Entrants may not perform twice on the same instrument in the same class under any circumstances.

SOLO CLASSES

Entrants should normally enter in the class appropriate for their age group and standard. Where performers wish to perform a piece that is too long for their standard they may move to the harder class as appropriate. No performer may enter two classes of a different standard on the same instrument unless their entry for the lower standard class is for feedback only.

CONCERTO AND RECITAL CLASSES

Entrants should normally enter the class appropriate for their age. Where performers wish to perform a piece that is too long for their age they may enter **one** age group higher. Entrants may not enter both Junior and Youth Concerto or Youth and Senior Concerto on the same instrument, the same applies to recital classes. However, entrants are permitted to enter (for example) Junior Concerto and Youth Recital.

OTHER ENTRY REQUESTS

In the case of any other entry requests that do not fall into the standard rules the decision will be made by the Instrument Secretary; all decisions will be final."

FULL ATTENDANCE OF CLASS ENCOURAGED: Entrants are strongly encouraged to attend their entire class, from start to finish. Doing so not only supports fellow musicians and enhances the shared festival experience. It also allows performers to listen to the adjudication, gaining valuable feedback and insight from each performance.

TIME LIMITS: Time limits for each section are given and must be observed. The time limit includes the whole performance. Performances may be stopped by the adjudicator if time limits are exceeded. A performance exceeding the time limit will be marked and adjudicated, but will not be eligible for a first prize or trophy. Performances may be stopped if they grossly exceed the time limit.

ACCOMPANISTS:

There are NO OFFICIAL ACCOMPANISTS for the instrumental section. Entrants MUST provide their own.

The following highly experienced Festival accompanists may be available:

Jon Booth: Tel: 07860 472398 jonzbooth@gmail.com

Maria Levandovskaya: Tel. 07763 665107 laveleva@gmail.com

Caroline Page: Tel. 07734 852558 carolinetpage@gmail.com

Olivia Travers: oliviatravers@mac.com

It is the responsibility of the performer or their parents/teacher to contact the accompanist and make their own arrangements for fees, rehearsals and timings, giving a minimum of two weeks' notice. The Festival organisers cannot help with these arrangements.

SHEET MUSIC:

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. Legally purchased sheet music downloads and legal IMSLP copies are permitted.

SPECIFYING PIECES:

You may enter with "TBC" if the pieces to be played by the performer are not yet known by the closing date. However, all piece and composer names must be confirmed and submitted **no later than two weeks before the festival** for verification.

DRESS CODE:

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

DUPLICATION OF PIECES:

The same piece **may not** be played in different classes.

GRADE STANDARDS:

Where a grade standard is specified, this refers to the standard of the performer. All music chosen must be appropriate to that standard. Any performer who is clearly in an inappropriate class may be moved to the correct class at the sole discretion of the adjudicator. For the ensemble classes we ask that ensembles follow the spirit of the rules – any questions should be addressed to the Instrumental Secretary.

CUPS:

Entrants must compete in at least two classes to be eligible for one of the cups across several classes. Having the cups engraved is the recipient's responsibility.

ENSEMBLES

Any style of music: classical, jazz, rock etc. Ensembles (101,102,103) may be any combination of instruments, three or more players. Ensembles may have an adult/professional piano accompanist and/or a conductor.

Friends and Family (105) is any group which includes at least two members of the same family or close friends. Any instruments, any style, any age (school age, adult amateurs). One piece or movement.

Names of all performers, instruments and style of music to be stated on the entry form. Performers may enter the same class in different groups. Classes may be divided by music style.

Class	Class Title	Standard	Time Limit	Fee.	Trophy/award
101	Beginner Ensemble	G3 and below	5 mins	£18 per group	Pringle Cup
102	Intermediate Ensemble	G6 and below	7 mins		Ensemble cup
103	Advanced Ensemble	G7 and above	10 mins		Shield
105	Friends and Family	Any	5 mins	£12	Silver Salver

SOLO CLASSES

Open to ALL string, wind and brass instruments (including guitar, harp and recorder). (Note: For piano please enter the separate piano section.)

Players may enter the same class multiple times on instruments from different categories (string, wind or brass).

Players may not enter any class on multiple instruments in the same category. They may, however, enter different classes on different instruments.

One piece or one movement ONLY, with or without accompaniment. If time limits are insufficient for the age stated, performers should be entered in the age group with the appropriate time limit. Entrants may not enter both Junior and Youth classes on the same instrument.

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

This is for performers of any school age. The performer must not have studied ANY instrument for more than one year to be eligible for this class.

Class	Class Title	Standard	Time Limit	Fee
108	Absolute Beginner		3 mins	£6

JUNIOR SOLO CLASSES

These are for performers in Year 6 and below.

Class	Class Title	Standard	Time Limit	Fee
110	Beginner	G3 and below	3 mins	£6
111	Intermediate	G5 and below	5 mins	£9
112	Advanced	G6 and above	7 mins	£12

YOUTH SOLO CLASSES

These are for performers in Year 9 and below.

Class	Class Title	Standard	Time Limit	Fee
120	Beginner	G4 and below	3 mins	£6
121	Intermediate	G6 and below	5 mins	£9
122	Advanced	G7 and above	7 mins	£12

SENIOR SOLO CLASSES

These are for performers in Year 10 and above.

Class	Class Title	Standard	Time Limit	Fee
130	Beginner	G4 and below	3 mins	£6
131	Intermediate	G7 and below	5 mins	£9
132	Advanced	G8 and above	7 mins	£12

CONCERTO CLASSES

One movement only, which must be from a concerto or concertino, or a standalone concert piece.

Performers must provide their own accompanist or contact one of the above pianists in good time.

If you're unsure whether a piece is suitable for the concerto class, please contact the Instrumental Secretary in good time.

Class	Class Title	Age	Time Limit	Fee
140	Junior	Year 6 and below	6 mins	£12
141	Youth	Year 9 and below	8 mins	£15
142	Senior	Year 10 and above	10 mins	£18

MUSICAL VERSATILITY

This is for performers of any **school** age. Players to perform on at least two different instruments in any style (wind, brass, strings, voice, piano, guitar, harp, recorder).

The same piece **may not** be performed in a different class or section.

Class	Class Title	Age	Time Limit	Fees	Award
150	Musical Versatility*	Any	10 minutes total	£9	Edward Bostock Cup

RECITAL CLASSES

Open to all string, wind, brass and percussion instruments including harp and guitar.

Time limits should be calculated as 'total performance time' including breaks between items. Credit will be given for choice of programme, which must include two or more contrasting pieces, and may include sonata or suite movements or character pieces. Note that concertos/concertinos (anything with the name concerto, concert piece or concertino in the title) **are not** permitted in the recital classes.

If you're unsure whether a piece is suitable for the recital class, please contact the Instrumental Secretary in good time.

For harp entrants, the Hugo von Sydow Memorial Junior Harp Cup presented by Mrs E Seale and the Daphne Boden Memorial Harp Cup may be awarded.

Class	Class Title	Age	Time Limit	Fee
160	Junior	Year 6 and below	7 mins	£12
161	Youth	Year 9 and below	11 mins	£15
162	Senior	Year 10 and above	15 mins	£18

INSTRUMENTAL CUPS TO BE AWARDED 2026

Cup/Award	Class No.
Young Instrumentalist of the Year:	
Winner: Cyril Kemplay trophy and £100	All Wind & Strings
Young instrumentalist 2nd place: £50 + cup	All Wind & Strings
Richmond Borough Cup	Richmond residents
Violin solo – Frazer Cup	110-132
‘Cello/Double Bass solo – ‘Cello & Double Bass Cup	110-132
Beginners Strings – Pringle Cup	108, 110,120,130
Ensemble Junior – Pringle Cup	101
Ensemble Cup – Intermediate	102
Ensemble Shield	103
Bostock Cup for Musical Versatility	150
Family and Friends – Salver	105
Concerto Senior	142
Concerto Youth	141
Concerto Junior	140
Wind & Brass Cup Age 15 & under	120-122
Wind & Brass cup Age 12 & under	110-112
Recital Senior – £20	162
Recital Cup Youth	161
Recital Cup Junior	160
Harp – Daphne Boden Senior/Youth	Harp performers
Harp – Hugo von Sydow Junior	Harp performers
Viola Plate	Viola performers