



2024 Syllabus for Choirs and Singing Competitions

North London Festival of Music, Speech and
Drama:

Monday 11th to Tuesday 26th March and
Saturday 13th April to Friday 10th May

Edith Poulsen Singing and Accompanists' Prize
Competition – Tuesday 16th April.

Other Singing and Choral Competitions:
Friday 15th, Sunday 17th, Monday 18th March,
Saturday 20th April and Wednesday 1st May



Singing Competitions

Venue: Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, NW11 7AG

Except where noted, the following information applies to all choir and singing competitions, including the Edith Poulsen Singing and Accompanists' Prize Competition

All entrants may sing with or without instrumental accompaniment, but no backing tracks are allowed, **except** for class 207. If you wish to use the Festival's Official Accompanist, please indicate this when entering.

All entrants, but especially those with younger voices, should ensure they present vocally appropriate repertoire.

Entrants must provide the Adjudicator with a clean copy of the music for each work to be performed. Pieces may not be repeated in different competitions.

For all classes, **except** for the Edith Poulsen Singing and Accompanists' Prize Competition, entrants must be amateurs or music students.

Entrants are reminded to introduce themselves and the piece(s) they are singing and to wear dress appropriate for a performance.

Where an age limit is specified, it is the **age on 1st September 2023** so that all the entrants in a class are in the same school year.

If an entrant has been a pupil of the Adjudicator in the year prior to the Festival or is well-known to the Adjudicator, they should contact the Section Head before entering.

Enter online via the Festival's website – <https://northlondonfestival.org.uk/>

The closing Date for the Edith Poulsen Competition and the Choir Competitions is Friday 22nd March 2024

Closing Date for other singing competitions – Friday 1st March 2024

We are grateful to **The Herbert Howells Society** for sponsoring a prize for the best performance of a song by Herbert Howells in any competition over the course of the Festival. The Herbert Howells Society Prize is £25 cash plus a copy of one of the books of Howells published songs chosen from a list supplied to the winner.

**200 and 201 — Edith Poulsen Singing and Accompanists' Prize
Competition — Tuesday 16th April, from 10:00 am**

Venue: Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, NW11 7AG

Adjudicators: Singers — Nadine Benjamin MBE

Accompanists — Alisdair Hogarth

A **£500 cash prize** will be awarded to the highest placed **singer**.

A **cash prize of £300** will be awarded to the highest-placed **accompanist**.

The **singing** competition is open to singers who are studying as undergraduates or post-graduates, including those studying on an opera course, as well as those who have graduated from a conservatoire within the last three years.

The **accompanists'** competition is open to pianists who are studying as undergraduates or post-graduates, as well as those who have graduated from a conservatoire within the last three years.

Singers and accompanists should enter separately, noting on their entry if performing jointly:

Singers: competition 200 – entry fee £35

Accompanists: competition 201 – entry fee £25

Closing Date – Friday 22nd March 2024

The **recital** can last up to 20 minutes. Entrants must sing one song from 3 of the 5 categories below, plus one or two own-choice pieces.

1. A song from the 16th or 17th centuries, sung in the original language.
2. A song from the 19th or 20th century sung in the original European language.
3. An aria from an opera, sung in the original language, with or without recitative.
4. An aria from an oratorio, sung in the original language, with or without recitative.
5. A 20th or 21st century English or American art-song or folksong.

Competitors will be adjudicated on the selection of a balanced and well-designed programme, on depth of their musicianship and on how they present themselves and connect with an audience. A verbal introduction to the musical programme is an integral part of the performance.

The **£500 cash prize** will be given in memory of **Edith Poulsen**, who was born in Vienna on 10 April 1918, arrived in London on 6 April 1939 as a refugee and passed away on 4 April 2020. Her grandfather first took her as a 7-year-old to see the opera Hansel and Gretel, and she became hooked, enjoying opera for the rest of her life. She was an annual visitor to Welsh National Opera, where her last visit was to see Hansel and Gretel, aged 97.

Singing Day 1 – Younger Singers from 4:30 on Friday 15th March

Venue: Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, NW11 7AG

Adjudicator: Marika Rauscher

Enter online via the Festival's website – ***Closing Date – Wednesday 1st March.***

		Time Limit (mins)	Fee £
202	Junior Early Music I — 12 years and under *. One song from the Medieval, Renaissance, or Baroque period to be performed in the original language.	5	15.00
203	Junior Early Music II — 13 to 16 years *. One song from the Medieval, Renaissance, or Baroque period to be performed in the original language.	5	16.00
204	Children's Solo — 10 years and under *. One own-choice song from the classical repertoire.	3	14.00
205	Junior Solo — 11 years and over *. One own-choice song from the classical repertoire.	4	14.00
206	Unaccompanied Folk Song — 15 years and under *. This is an own choice song originating among the people of a region and forming part of their culture, performed from memory. For more detail of what is and is not considered to be a folk song and suggestions for sources, please see https://www.abrsm.org/en-gb/instruments/singing	5	15.00
207	Popular Song — 15 years and under *. To be performed with either live instrumental accompaniment or a backing track, but if a backing track is used it and the means to play it must be provided by the candidate.	5	15.00

* Where an age limit is specified, it is the ***age on 1st September 2023*** so that all the entrants in a class are in the same school year.

No backing tracks are allowed, except for class 207.



Singing Day 2 – Musical Theatre, from 3:00 pm on Sunday 17th March

Venue: Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, NW11 7AG

Adjudicator: Marika Rauscher

Enter online via the Festival's website – ***Closing Date - Friday 1st March.***

For these classes, both the singing and the characterisation of the part are important. Costumes and props are welcome but, if used, should be simple.

No backing tracks are allowed.

		Time Limit (mins)	Fee £
208	Musical Theatre — 11 years and under. One song from a show or musical film, including a few spoken words, if appropriate.	5	15.00
209	Musical Theatre — 12 to 15 years. One song from a show or musical film, including a few spoken words, if appropriate.	7	15.00
210	Musical Theatre — 16 years and over, any voice. Two songs of contrasting moods/styles from light opera, musical theatre, or cabaret, including a few spoken words, if appropriate.	10	23.00
211	Opera/Operetta — 18 years and over, any voice. One aria from an opera or operetta, with or without recitative, to be sung in English or the original language.	7	16.00

Singing Day 3 – Adults, from 6:30 pm on Monday 18th March

Venue: Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, NW11 7AG

Adjudicator: Anna Loveday

Enter online via the Festival's website – **Closing Date – Friday 1st March.**

		Time Limit	Fee £
212	Solo Recital — 17 years and over, any voice. A competition for dedicated amateur singers of a high standard (comparable to Grade 7 and above), including those working towards conservatoire entry. A recital programme of two or three contrasting songs and arias.	15 mins	25.00
213	Association of English Singers and Speakers (AESS) Prize — 17 years and over, any voice. We are grateful to the AESS for sponsoring this competition. Two songs by British composers and one poem or piece of prose by a British poet or author performed in English. The candidate should introduce the programme and may choose the order in which to recite and sing. The songs and poem or prose should share a common theme. The AESS prize will be £25 cash, the AESS Trophy and a copy of one of the AESS' <i>Century of English Song</i> books.	15 mins	25.00
214	Senior Early Music — 15 years and over, any voice. One song from the Medieval, Renaissance, or Baroque periods to be performed in the original language.	5 mins	15.00
215	Oratorio — 15 years and over, any voice. One aria from an oratorio, with or without recitative, to be sung in English or the original language.	7 mins	16.00
216	Lieder/Melodie — 16 years and over, any voice. One song by, for example, Brahms, Debussy, Duparc, Fauré, Hahn, Poulenc, Schubert, Schumann, R Strauss, or Wolf to be performed in the original language.	5 mins	15.00

Choirs and Ensembles

In 2024 there will be 2 days of choir competitions, one online, with choirs submitting a video of their performance and one live. A choir may enter either a live or an online class, but **not** both. Every choir will receive a written adjudication sheet and a certificate of participation. Choirs from the UK and Ireland are welcome. The overall winning choir will receive a **£200 cash prize**.

Adjudicator: Sam Barton

Enter online via the Festival's website – **Closing Date – Friday 22nd March**.

Live choir classes from 2:00 pm on Saturday 20th April

Venue: Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, NW11 7AG

		Time Limit (mins)	Fee £
250	Any age , any voice type, either unison or in parts, with a minimum of 6 voices. Two contrasting pieces lasting no longer than 8 minutes in total. With or without accompaniment.	8	50.00
251	Young people's choir aged 18 years * and under, any voice type, either unison or in parts, with a minimum of 6 voices. Two contrasting songs lasting no longer than 8 minutes in total. With or without accompaniment.	8	50.00
252	Children's choir aged 11 years * and under, any voice type, either unison or in parts, with a minimum of 6 voices. Two contrasting songs lasting no longer than 8 minutes in total. With or without accompaniment.	8	50.00
253	Any age, any voice type , either unison or in parts, with a minimum of 2 voices and a maximum of 5 voices. One or two contrasting pieces lasting no longer than 8 minutes in total. With or without accompaniment.	8	25.00

* Where an age limit is specified, it is the **age on 1st September 2023** so that all the entrants in a class are in the same school year.

Online choir classes via Zoom from 4:30 pm on Wednesday 1st May:

Online entrants will be invited to a Zoom meeting on **Wednesday 1st May** to hear a general adjudication and selected performances. The Zoom will start at 4:30 with adjudication of class 257 for children’s choirs, followed by classes 256, and 255 in that order.

	Time Limit (mins)	Fee £
255 Any age , any voice type, either unison or in parts, with a minimum of 6 voices. Two contrasting pieces lasting no longer than 8 minutes in total. With or without accompaniment.	8	50.00
256 Young people’s choir aged 18 years * and under, any voice type, either unison or in parts, with a minimum of 6 voices. Two contrasting songs lasting no longer than 8 minutes in total. With or without accompaniment.	8	50.00
257 Children’s choir aged 11 years * and under, any voice type, either unison or in parts, with a minimum of 6 voices. Two contrasting songs lasting no longer than 8 minutes in total. With or without accompaniment.	8	50.00

* Where an age limit is specified, it is the **age on 1st September 2023** so that all the entrants in a class are in the same school year.



NORTH LONDON FESTIVAL OF MUSIC, SPEECH & DRAMA

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For venues, a full list of competitions and an online entry form, visit

www.northlondonfestival.org.uk

or email: enquiriesnlf@outlook.com