



2026 Syllabus for Singing and Choir Competitions

2026 Festival Dates:
Monday 2 to Friday 27 March
and
Saturday 11 April to Saturday 16 May

Singing and Choir Competitions

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

Except where noted, the following information applies to all singing and choir competitions.

- All entrants may sing with or without instrumental accompaniment, but backing tracks are **only allowed** for Popular Song Class 208. If you wish to use the Festival's Official Accompanist, please indicate this when entering.
- All entrants, but especially very young singers, 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 Senior 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 2025** 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 12 months 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 Senior Singing and Accompanists' Prize Competition and the live Choir Competitions is Friday 27 March 2026

The Closing Date for other singing competitions – Monday 16 February 2026

*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 — Senior Singing and Accompanists' Prize Competition

Monday 13 April, from 10:00 am

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

Adjudicators: Singers: Catherine Bott
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 £40

Accompanists: competition 201 – entry fee £30

Closing Date – Friday 27 March 2026

The **recital** can last up to 20 minutes. Entrants must sing one song from three of the five 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.

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

Singing Day 1 – Younger Singers from 4:30 pm on Tuesday 3 March

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

Adjudicator: Melanie SandersEnter online via the Festival's website: *Closing Date –Monday 16 February 2026.*

		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.	4	18.00
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.	4	19.00
204	Children's Solo — 10 years and under *. One own-choice song from the Classical repertoire.	3	16.00
205	Junior Solo — 11 to 14 years *. One own-choice song from the Classical repertoire.	4	16.00
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 the download tab on https://www.abrsm.org/en-gb/instruments/singing	4	18.00
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.	4	18.00

* For each entry dependent on age, it is the **age on 1 September 2025** that applies, so that all the entrants in any age-limited class are in the same school year or years.

No backing tracks are allowed, **except** for class 207.



NORTH LONDON FESTIVAL OF MUSIC, SPEECH & DRAMA

Singing Day 2 – Musical Theatre: from 3:00 pm on Sunday 15 March

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

Adjudicator: Janet Mooney

Enter online via the Festival's website – ***Closing Date – Monday 16 February.***

For these classes, and class 213, 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	Fee £
			(mins)	
208	Musical Theatre - 11 years and under *		4	18.00
	One song from a show or musical film, including a few spoken words, if appropriate.			
209	Musical Theatre - 12 to 15 years *		4	18.00
	One song from a show or musical film, including a few spoken words, if appropriate.			
210	Musical Theatre - 16 years and over, any voice *		6	27.00
	Two songs of contrasting moods/styles from musical theatre, or cabaret, including a few spoken words, if appropriate.			

* For each entry dependent on age, it is the ***age on 1 September 2025*** that applies, so that all the entrants in any age-limited class are in the same school year or years.



Singing Day 3 – 15 years and above:

from 4:30 pm on Monday 23 March

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

Adjudicator: Jane Roberson

Enter online via the Festival's website: ***Closing Date - Monday 16 February.***

		Time	Limit	Fee £
			(mins)	
211	Senior Solo — 15 years and over. One own-choice song from the Renaissance, Baroque or Classical repertoire, to be sung in English or the original language.		4	16.00
212	Opera/Operetta/Oratorio/Cantata — 15 years and over *, any voice. One aria from an opera, operetta, or oratorio, with or without recitative, to be sung in English or the original language.		5	20.00
213	Solo Recital — 18 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	30.00
214	English Singing and Speaking Competition — 17 years and over *, any voice. 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.		15	30.00
215	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	18.00

* For each entry dependent on age, it is the ***age on 1 September 2025*** that applies, so that all the entrants in any age-limited class are in the same school year or years.

Choirs and Ensembles

In 2026 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: Stephen Hill

Live choir classes from 4:30 pm on Friday 17 April

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

Enter online via the Festival's website: ***Closing Date – Friday 27 March.***

		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	60.00
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	60.00
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	60.00
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	30.00

* For each entry dependent on age, it is the ***age on 1 September 2025*** that applies, so that all the entrants in any age-limited class are in the same school year or years.



Online choir classes via Zoom from 4:30 pm on Wednesday 25 March

Adjudicator: Stephen Hill

Enter online via the Festival's website:

Closing Date for entries – Monday 16 February

Recordings to be submitted by – Monday 16 March

Online entrants will be invited to a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 25 March 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	60.00
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	60.00
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	60.00

* For each entry dependent on age, it is the ***age on 1 September 2025*** that applies, so that all the entrants in any age-limited class are in the same school year or years.



**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: enquiriesnlf025@gmail.com