

2026 Syllabus for Chamber Music, Ensemble and Folk Music Competitions

2026 Festival Dates:

Monday 2 to Friday 27 March

and

Saturday 11 April to Saturday 16 May

Large Instrumental Ensembles,
Orchestras, Folk Music, and World
Music Saturday 7 March

Chamber Music Competitions
Sunday 12 April

Competition Guidelines

The following guidelines apply to *all* the Festival's chamber music, ensemble, and folk music competitions, unless otherwise noted.

Enter these competitions online via the Festival's website.

The ***Closing Date is Monday 16 February.***

- 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.
- Entrants should introduce themselves and the piece(s) they are playing and wear dress appropriate for a performance.
- Except for folk music and world music, 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.
- 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.
- The **Chamber Music Competitions** on Sunday 12 April are for small groups of up to ten players. Larger groups should enter one of the **Large Instrumental Ensemble** classes on Saturday 7 March.
- Chamber music groups may consist of any combination of instruments, including strings, wind, brass, and piano.
- Competitions on 7 March are for **orchestras and large instrumental ensembles** of more than ten players. The maximum number of players is 50 for class 511 and 30 for classes 512 and 513. If you wish to enter a larger group than these limits, please first contact the Section Administrator, Rosemary Cook – enquiriesnlf025@gmail.com
- For orchestras and larger ensembles, there can be any combination of instruments, and the group may include an adult piano accompanist and/or a conductor. Two or more pieces should be played.

Chamber Music Competitions

from 2:00 pm, Sunday 12 April

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

Adjudicator: ANO

These competitions are for small groups of up to ten players. (Larger groups should enter one of the Large Instrumental Ensemble classes on Saturday 7 March.)

Chamber music groups may consist of any combination of instruments, including strings, wind, brass, and piano.

Only entries to classes 507 to 510 may have an adult piano accompanist and/or a conductor.

Enter online via the Festival's website.



Stringers of London will award a £50 voucher to each player in the most outstanding string ensemble of up to 8 players.

A £50 cash prize, donated by Hilary Sturt, will be awarded to the **viola** player who makes the most outstanding contribution to their group's performance.

A £50 cash prize, in memory of David Angel, will be awarded to the **second violinist** who makes the most outstanding contribution to their group's performance.

Chamber Ensemble – 8 or fewer players, one per part, no conductor.		Time Limit (mins)	Fee per player £
500	Open.	10	12.00
501	17 years and under.	10	10.00
502	13 years and under.	5	8.00

Duets/Trios/Quartets – one or more movements from a work with one player per part, no conductor.

503	Open.	10	12.00
504	17 years and under.	8	10.00
505	13 years and under.	6	8.00
506	11 years and under.	5	6.00

Chamber Ensemble – 5 or more players with one or more per part and at least 4 parts. One or two pieces.

May include adult piano accompanist or conductor.

507	Open.	10	12.00
508	17 years and under.	8	10.00
509	13 years and under.	6	8.00
510	11 years and under.	5	6.00



Large Ensembles, Orchestras, Folk Music, and World Music

Saturday 7 March

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

Adjudicator: ANO

Competitions 511, 512 and 513 are for orchestras and large ensembles of more than ten players. The **maximum** number of players is **50** for 511 and **30** for 512, 513, 520 and 521.

If you wish to enter a larger group than these limits, please first contact the Section Administrator.

There can be any combination of instruments, and the group may include an adult piano accompanist and/or a conductor. Two or more pieces should be played.

A shield may be awarded to the highest marked ensemble from either class 512 or class 513 or the Folk Music class 515.

Class 511 will be at 11:30. All the other classes, starting with class 521, will start at 14:00.

Enter online via the Festival's website.

	Large Instrumental Ensembles and Orchestras	Time Limit	Fee £ (mins)
511	Any age – up to 50 players. This is non-competitive and to celebrate music making. All participants will receive a North London Festival medal.	15	65.00
512	17 years and under 7 th March – up to 30 players.	10	45.00
513	15 years and under – up to 30 players.	8	45.00
520	12 years and under – up to 30 players.	8	45.00
521	9 years and under – up to 30 players.	8	45.00

Folk Music and World Music

514	Any age. A solo performance of one or more pieces of folk music or world music.	8	22.00
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NORTH LONDON FESTIVAL OF MUSIC, SPEECH & DRAMA

515 Any age. A performance by a group of up to six players of one or more pieces of folk music. Any combination of instruments. 15 26.00

Festival Administrator:

Janice Twiselton, 64 Powys Lane, London N13 4HS

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email: janicetwist@talktalk.net

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

www.northlondonfestival.org.uk

Or email: enquiriesnlf025@gmail.com