



**NORTH LONDON FESTIVAL OF
MUSIC, SPEECH & DRAMA**

2026 Syllabus for String Competitions

Monday 2 to Friday 27 March

and

Saturday 11 April to Saturday 16 May

String Competition Guidelines

Except where noted below, the following guidelines apply to **all** the Festival's string competitions, which should be entered online via the Festival's website –

<https://northlondonfestival.org.uk/>

- The **closing date** for all the competitions **except** the and the D'Addario String Prize Competition and the double bass day is **Friday 27 February**.
- The **closing date** for the **D'Addario String Prize**, and **the double bass day** is **Friday 27 March**.
- 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.
- The same piece may not be repeated in different competitions.
- Entrants must be amateurs or music students and are reminded to introduce themselves and the piece(s) they are playing and to wear dress appropriate for a performance.
- Entrants must provide the Adjudicator with a clean copy of the music for each work to be performed.
- 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.
- Following advice from an experienced Adjudicator, we have decided **not** to allow Festival performances to be recorded, **except** by specific prior agreement.

String Section Administrator: Rosemary Cook – enquiriesnlf025@gmail.com

300 – String Prize Competition generously supported by



Tuesday 14 April 2026 – from 10:00 am

Closing Date – Friday 27 March.

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

Adjudicator: Jo Cole

A £500 cash prize and a cup will be awarded to the winner, a £100 voucher* to the second prize winner and a £50 voucher* to the third prize winner.

**The vouchers awarded are to be used to buy D'Addario products at special festival prices. Winners will be given these prices with their prize vouchers.*

This recital competition is for Conservatoire students of Violin, Viola, Cello, or Double Bass, aged 17 years and over. The recital must include two or three varied pieces taken from Concerto, Sonata, Showpiece or Solo repertoire.

The prize will be awarded not only for the performance of a balanced and well-designed programme but also for the most refined and developed sense of stagecraft. Competitors will find themselves adjudicated not only on the depth of their musicianship but also on how they present themselves and generally connect with an audience. A verbal introduction to the musical programme is an integral part of the performance. Entrants are reminded to wear dress appropriate for a performance.

Time limit 20 minutes.

Entry Fee: £40

String Competitions

		Time (mins)	Fee (£)
301	<p>Challenge String Prize Competition (formerly Premier) — any age, Grade 8 and above, one piece only. Open to violin, viola, cello, double bass, guitar, or harp. A £120 voucher towards instrumental maintenance from Bridgewood and Neitzert and a cup will be awarded. An entrant may enter class 301 <i>or</i> either 302 or 303, but <i>not</i> 301 as well as 302 or 303. Closing Date – Friday 27 February. 301 will start at 4:30 pm on Friday 20 March.</p> <p>Adjudicator – Hilary Sturt</p>	10	27.00
302	<p>Concerto or Recital — 8–10 years, Grade 6 and above. <i>Either</i> the first or last movement only of any standard concerto <i>or</i> a short recital programme of two or three contrasting pieces by different composers. Open to violin, viola, cello, double bass, guitar, or harp. A £50 voucher towards instrumental maintenance from Bridgewood and Neitzert will be awarded. An entrant may <i>not</i> enter class 302 as well as 301 or 303. Closing Date – Friday 27 February. 302 will start at 4:30 pm on Friday 6 March.</p> <p>Adjudicator – Paul Barritt</p>	10	27.00
303	<p>Concerto or Recital — 11–16 years, Grade 7 and above. <i>Either</i> the first or last movement only of any standard concerto <i>or</i> a short recital programme of two or three contrasting pieces by different composers. Open to violin, viola, cello, double bass, guitar, or harp. A £100 voucher towards instrumental maintenance from Bridgewood and Neitzert will be awarded. Closing Date – Friday 27 February. An entrant may <i>not</i> enter class 303 as well as 301 or 302. 303 will start at 2:00 pm on Sunday 8 March.</p> <p>Adjudicator – Alex Thorndike</p>	10	27.00

String Competitions contd.

		Time (mins)	Fee (£)
350	Young Novices — 10 years and under. One piece only. For entrants who have not been learning for more than two years and are of Grade 2 standard or less. Class 350 will follow violin class 311 on Tuesday 17 March. Adjudicator – Stephanie Waite	4	15:00
351	Novices — 11–17 years. One piece only. For entrants who have not been learning for more than two years and are of Grade 2 standard or less. Class 351 will follow violin class 350 on Tuesday 17 March. Adjudicator – Stephanie Waite	5	16.00
352	Adults — 18 years and over. One piece only. For entrants who are not studying the instrument full time. Class 352 will follow violin class 318 on Tuesday 17 March. Adjudicator – Stephanie Waite	8	25.00

Graded String Competitions and Guitar Classes

Tuesday 12 May 2026 starting at 4:30 pm

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

Adjudicator: Alison Moncrieff-Kelly

For each of the graded competitions, performers should play **one piece only** from the ABRSM Bowed Strings Syllabus valid from 2024 or the Trinity Strings Syllabus valid from 2025 or the Guildhall String Syllabus valid from 2025 for their instrument. These classes are to give performers an opportunity to gain constructive feedback on their performance as they prepare for their exam. Every entrant receives a certificate and for each class the adjudicator may award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals and certificates. Entrants are reminded to introduce themselves and the piece(s) they are playing and to wear dress appropriate for a performance.

Enter online via the Festival's website: **Closing Date – Monday 27 March 2026**

Graded String Competitions		Time (mins)	Fee (£)
304	Violin, viola, cello, or double bass — any age, Grade 6.	6	20.00
305	Violin, viola, cello, or double bass — any age, Grade 5.	6	18.00
306	Violin, viola, cello, or double bass — any age, Grade 4.	5	18.00
307	Violin, viola, cello, or double bass — any age, Grade 3.	4	16.00
308	Violin, viola, cello, or double bass — any age, Grade 2.	3	16.00
309	Violin, viola, cello, or double bass — any age, Initial Grade or Grade 1	3	15.00

Competition for guitars and related instruments *

340	Any age, Grade 3 or equivalent and below. One piece only.	5	18.00
341	Any age, Grades 4 to 6 or equivalent. One piece only.	8	22.00
342	Any age, Grade 6 or equivalent and above. Entrants must be amateurs or music students. One piece only.	10	27.00

* Guitars and related instruments – guitar, mandolin, ukulele, sitar, lute, banjos etc. If you are unsure about whether you can enter your instrument, please contact the String Section Administrator before entering - Rosemary Cook – enquiriesnlf053@gmail.com

Violin Competitions generously supported by



Tuesday 10 March starting at 4:30 pm (312, 313, 314 & 315) and
Tuesday 17 March starting at 3:30 pm (310, 311, 316, 317 & 318)

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

Adjudicator: Stephanie Waite

		Time (mins)	Fee (£)
310	Violin — 7 years and under. One piece only. A £25 voucher will be awarded*	3	18.00
311	Violin — 8 years. One piece only. A £25 voucher will be awarded*	3	18.00
312	Violin — 9 years. One piece only. A £25 voucher will be awarded*	4	18.00
313	Violin — 10 years – Grade 4 & under — enter either class 313 or class 314, but not both. One piece only. A £25 voucher will be awarded*	5	18.00
314	Violin — 10 years – Grade 5 & above — enter either class 313 or class 314, but not both. One piece only. A £25 voucher will be awarded*	5	18.00
315	Violin — 11—12 years. One piece only. A £50 voucher will be awarded*	6	20.00
316	Violin — 13—14 years. One piece only. A £75 voucher will be awarded*	8	22.00
317	Violin — 15—18 years. One piece only. A £100 voucher will be awarded*	10	27.00
318	Violin — 18 years and over. One piece only. Entrants must be amateurs or music students. A £250 voucher will be awarded*	10	27.00

**The vouchers awarded are to be used to buy D'Addario products at special festival prices. Winners will be given these prices with their prize vouchers.*

Viola Competitions generously supported by



Friday 13 March 2026, starting at 4:30 pm

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

Adjudicator: Alex Thorndike

		Time (mins)	Fee £
319	Viola — 8 years and under. One piece only. A £25 cash prize will be awarded.	3	18.00
320	Viola — 9–10 years. One piece only. A £25 cash prize will be awarded.	4	18.00
321	Viola — 11–12 years. One piece only. A £35 cash prize will be awarded.	5	20.00
322	Viola — 13–14 years. One piece only. A £150 cash prize will be awarded.	8	22.00
323	Viola — 15–18 years. One piece only. A £200 cash prize will be awarded.	10	25.00
324	Viola — 18 years and over. One piece only. Entrants must be amateurs or music students. A £500 cash prize will be awarded.	10	27.00

Cello Competitions generously supported by



Tuesday 24 March 2026, starting at 4:30 pm

Venue: Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, NW

Adjudicator: Alison Moncrieff-Kelly

		Time (mins)	Fee (£)
325	Cello — 8 years and under. One piece only. A £50 voucher will be awarded.	3	18.00
326	Cello — 9–10 years. One piece only. A £50 voucher will be awarded.	4	18.00
327	Cello — 11–12 years. One piece only. A £100 voucher will be awarded.	5	20.00
328	Cello — 13–14 years. One piece only. A £150 voucher will be awarded.	6	20.00
329	Cello — 15–18 years. One piece only. A £250 voucher will be awarded.	7	27.00
330	Cello — 18 years and over. One piece only. Entrants must be amateurs or music students. A £500 voucher will be awarded.	8	27.00

Susanne Beer Cello Corner Foundation Prize

The Festival is grateful to ***The Susanne Beer Cello Corner Foundation*** which is donating two prizes to cellists who enter one of the Festival's cello competitions on Tuesday 24 March: a first prize of **£200** and a second prize of **£50**.

The Susanne Beer Cello Corner Foundation is a registered charity that helps young cellists attain excellence in performance through cello and bow loans; performance opportunities; prizes; and tuition grants, in memory of cellist Susanne Beer.

Susanne Beer was, for nearly 20 years, co-principal cellist of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. She was also an inspirational teacher – and deeply committed to nurturing future generations of cellists. The Foundation is a tribute to Susanne and a means by which her life's work continues. If you'd like to learn more, or if you have a cello, bow or case you'd like to donate, please visit www.thecellocorner.co.uk

Double Bass Competitions, generously supported by



Friday 1 May 2026, starting at 4:30 pm

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

Adjudicator: Helen Neilsen

		Time (mins)	Fee (£)
331	Double Bass – Early Stages class - any age, beginner to Grade 2 or equivalent. One piece only. A £20 voucher to be spent in the shop of Thwaites Fine Stringed Instruments will be awarded.	5	18.00
332	Double Bass – any age, Grades 3 to 5 or equivalent. One piece only. A £50 voucher to be spent in the shop of Thwaites Fine Stringed Instruments will be awarded.	8	20.00
333	Double Bass – any age, Grade 6 or 7 or equivalent. One piece only. Entrants must be amateurs or music students. A £100 voucher to be spent in the shop of Thwaites Fine Stringed Instruments will be awarded.	9	27.00
334	Double Bass – any age, Grade 8 or equivalent and above. One piece only. Entrants must be amateurs or music students. A £200 voucher to be spent in the shop of Thwaites Fine Stringed Instruments will be awarded.	10	27.00



**NORTH LONDON FESTIVAL OF
MUSIC, SPEECH & DRAMA**

Festival Administrator:

Janice Twiselton, 64 Powys Lane, London N13 4HS

telephone: 0208 886 7237 or 07943 117752

email: janicetwist@talktalk.net

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

www.northlondonfestival.org.uk

Or email: enquiriesnlf053@gmail.com