



**16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**Mareel, Lerwick, Shetland**

# **2026 Syllabus**

**[www.symf.co.uk](http://www.symf.co.uk)**

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## **SYLLABUS, RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**The following general rules will apply:**

1	All Primary school-age children involved in full-time education within Shetland shall be eligible to participate in classes in the festival appropriate to their ability. Secondary school age pupils shall only be eligible to compete in the Senior Young Musician of the Year competition.
2	Adult participation in any instrumental performance is restricted to a maximum of TWO – e.g. an accompanist/director or an accompanist and a director.
3	For all Groups and Choirs, the standard floor plan MUST be completed and submitted with the application. A template floor plan is provided as a guide.
4	In Woodwind, String, Guitar, Accordion, Vocal, Brass and Open Duet Classes where applicable, an accompanist is permissible in that this can offer greater security to the pupils and can also open up the potential repertoire.

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## PIANO

In all solo and duet classes pupils should be entered for the class most suited to their ability regardless of age.

CLASS	PIANO SOLO
1	Open to any Primary pianist playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice.
2	Open to any Primary pianist playing <b>TWO</b> pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to <b>Grade 1-2</b>

In Class 2 the two pieces must be contrasting in both period and style.

CLASS	PIANO DUET
3	Open to any two Primary pianists playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice

## WOODWIND

CLASS	WOODWIND SOLO
4	Open to any Primary Woodwind player playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice.
5	Open to any Primary Woodwind player playing <b>TWO</b> pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to <b>Grade 1-2</b> .

In Class 5 the two pieces must be contrasting in both period and style

CLASS	WOODWIND DUET
6	Open to any two Primary Woodwind players playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice

## BRASS

CLASS	BRASS SOLO
7	Open to any Primary Brass player playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice.
8	Open to any Primary Brass player playing <b>TWO</b> pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to <b>Grade 1-2</b> .

In Class 8 the two pieces must be contrasting in both period and style

CLASS	BRASS DUET
9	Open to any two Primary Brass players playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice

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**STRING**

In all solo and duet classes pupils should be entered for the class most suited to their ability regardless of age.

CLASS	STRING SOLO
10	Open to any Primary String player playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice.
11	Open to any Primary String player playing <b>TWO</b> pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to <b>Grade 1-2</b> .

In Class 11 the two pieces must be contrasting in both period and style

CLASS	STRING DUET
12	Open to any two Primary String players playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice

**GUITAR**

In all solo and duet classes pupils should be entered for the class most suited to their ability regardless of age.

CLASS	GUITAR SOLO
13	Open to any Primary guitarist playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice
14	Open to any Primary guitarist playing <b>TWO</b> pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to <b>Grade 1-2</b> .

CLASS	GUITAR DUET/Group
15	Open to any two or more Primary guitarists playing <b>ONE</b> pieces of their own choice

**VOCAL**

In all solo and duet classes pupils should be entered for the class most suited to their ability regardless of age.

CLASS	VOCAL SOLO
16	Open to any Primary vocalist singing <b>ONE</b> song of their own choice
17	Open to any Primary vocalist singing <b>TWO</b> songs of their own choice at a standard equivalent to <b>Grade 1-2</b> .

CLASS	VOCAL DUET
18	Open to any two Primary vocalists singing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice

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**ACCORDION**

In all solo classes pupils should be entered for the class most suited to their ability regardless of age.

CLASS	ACCORDION SOLO
19	Open to any Primary accordionist playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice
20	Open to any Primary accordionist playing <b>TWO</b> pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to <b>Grade 1-2</b> .

In Class 18 the two pieces must be contrasting in style

CLASS	ACCORDION DUET/Group
21	Open to any two or more Primary accordionists playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice

**DRUMS**

In all solo classes pupils should be entered for the class most suited to their ability regardless of age.

CLASS	DRUM SOLO
22	Open to any Primary drum player playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice.
23	Open to any Primary drum player playing <b>TWO</b> pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to <b>Grade 1-2</b> .

In Class 21 the two pieces must be contrasting in style

**GROUPS**

FOR GROUP CLASSES THE MAXIMUM PERFORMING SHOULD NOT EXCEED 6 MINUTES AND THE MAXIMUM TIME ON STAGE SHOULD NOT EXCEED 10 MINUTES

CLASS	PRIMARY CLASSROOM GROUPS: Small <12
24	Open to any small group/combination of instrumentalists playing music of their own choice. ( 12 Players and under)

  

CLASS	PRIMARY CLASSROOM GROUPS: Large 12+
25	Open to any large group/combination of instrumentalists playing music of their own choice. (12 players and above)

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## CHOIRS

CLASS	CHOIRS
26	<p>Open to any singing group or choir of Primary age children.</p> <p>The performing time <b><u>should not exceed 6 minutes.</u></b></p> <p><b>Music staff are responsible for making their own arrangements to secure an accompanist for this class.</b></p>

CLASS	OPEN SOLO
27	Open to any Primary pupil playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice.
28	Open to any Primary pupil playing <b>TWO</b> pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to <b>Grade 1 and above.</b>

**In Class 26 the two pieces must be contrasting in both period and style**

CLASS	OPEN DUET
29	Open to any two or more Primary pupils playing <b>ONE</b> piece of their own choice

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## YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

CLASS	Young Musician of the Year (Senior)
30	<p>Open to instrumentalists and vocalists currently resident in Shetland. The senior competition is open to secondary school-age performers receiving full-time education in Shetland in session 2025/26 who have not attained their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026.</p> <p>Competitors for the senior competition must present a programme of <b>a standard not less than Grade 6 or equivalent</b> and must present a programme of <b>TWO pieces of their own choice, contrasting in BOTH period and style</b>. <b>Please note that a time limit may be imposed.</b></p> <p><b>The music chosen should be</b> standard repertoire but may include original compositions. <b>Any original composition must be of the</b> required standard <b>and</b> failure to comply with this requirement may result in the competitor not being considered for placement in the competition. A standard score in staff notation must be submitted for any original composition.</p> <p>The winner of the Young Musician of the Year (Senior) Competition may not enter again in subsequent years</p>

CLASS	Young Musician of the Year (Junior)
31	<p>Open to instrumentalists and vocalists currently resident in Shetland. junior competition is for primary school-age performers receiving full-time education in Shetland during session 2025/2026</p> <p>Competitors for the junior competition must present a programme of <b>a standard not less than Grade 3 or equivalent</b> and must present a programme of <b>TWO pieces of their own choice, contrasting in BOTH period and style</b>.</p> <p><b>The music chosen should be</b> standard repertoire but may include original compositions. <b>Any original composition must be of the</b> required standard <b>and</b> failure to comply with this requirement may result in the competitor not being considered for placement in the competition. A standard score in staff notation must be submitted for any original composition.</p> <p>The winner of the Young Musician of the Year (Junior) Competition may not compete at that level again but may compete in the Senior division if they so wish</p>

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## GENERAL REGULATIONS

<b>1</b>	Digital entries and entry forms should be submitted no later than February 20 <sup>th</sup> 2026 and can be accessed on the <a href="http://symf.co.uk">symf.co.uk</a> web site
<b>2</b>	<b>A Floor Plan is required for all groups and choirs</b>
<b>3</b>	Once an entry has been made it cannot be altered. <b>One competitor may not be substituted for another, except in groups.</b>
<b>4</b>	A programme of classes – including the Junior and Senior Young Musician competitions – giving dates and approximate times, will be issued approximately two weeks before the start of the Festival.
<b>5</b>	Participants should attend <b>at least 30 minutes</b> before the estimated time of their performance, other than at the commencement of a session.
<b>6</b>	Participants are expected to make their own arrangements to attend the session(s) in which they are to play.
<b>7</b>	<b>In all classes and in the Young Musician of the Year Competition, the Adjudicator's decisions are final.</b> Copies of the Adjudicator's comments will either be issued to participants at the conclusion of each festival class or will be retained and posted out to schools at a later date.
<b>8</b>	Members of the public will be admitted to all Festival sessions, and to the Gala Concert.
<b>9</b>	<b>Certificates of Achievement</b> will be awarded at <b>Gold, Silver and Bronze</b> level to participants who achieve the criteria for each award as determined by the adjudicator. <b>Gold</b> will be awarded for “an exceptional performance, technically and artistically”; <b>Silver</b> for “a convincing performance, technically and artistically” and <b>Bronze</b> for “a performance showing some artistic appreciation and/or technical ability.”
<b>10</b>	The Gala Concert will contain performances by both the Junior and Senior Young Musician of the Year. The Concert programme is devised in consultation between the festival adjudicator and members of the Festival working group, so as to ensure a balanced programme for the evening.
<b>11</b>	Funding for the Music Festival comes entirely from donations and grants. The working group will strive to do whatever we can to support schools with transport costs for attendance at groups classes, however, we cannot guarantee to fund all transport costs. We hope we can work in partnership with schools to ensure a positive outcome.

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