



2026 SPEECH & DRAMA SYLLABUS



**MUSIC, SPEECH AND DRAMA PERFORMANCE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE & ADULTS IN
CHELMSFORD**

Saturday 7th November

WELCOME TO THE CHELMSFORD FESTIVAL

The Chelmsford Competitive Festival of Music, Speech and drama is a celebration of talent, creativity and performance, bringing together participants from across the region to showcase their skills and passion.

ONLINE ENTRIES OPEN ON JULY 1ST

TROPHIES

**Please return all polished trophies by
Saturday September 20TH 2026 to Jill or
Philippa**

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR ALL ENTRIES IS
Saturday 3rd October at 18:00**

**THE ONLINE SYSTEM WILL SHUT DOWN AT
THIS TIME AND NO LATE ENTRIES CAN BE
ACCEPTED**

**As soon as you have made your entry please pay the fee via the
link on your confirmation email, by scanning the QR code on our
website and within this syllabus or by BACS.**

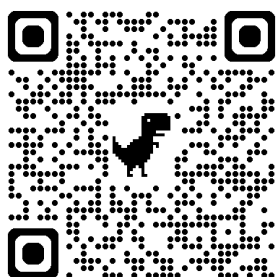
**An e mailed invoice with all details, will be generated by the
system as soon as you have checked out.**

**If you don't receive this then you haven't fully checked out of the
Run My Festival system. Please go back and double check
everything.**

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ALL ENSEMBLE CLASSES CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPROPRIATE SECTION



Payment link for your entries

CONTACT US



Become a friend on Facebook (Chelmsford Competitive Festival of Music and Drama)

Email communications to jillparkin58@icloud.com

Web site: www.chelmsfordfestival.online

follow the link to online entries on HOW TO ENTER page or go direct to
<https://chelmsfordfestival.runmyfestival.net>

Chair:	Mrs J Parkin Telephone: 07778 772126 <i>jillparkin58@icloud.com</i>
Hon. Treasurer:	Mrs P Penkett Telephone: 07713 150507 <i>philippapenkett@gmail.com</i>
SECTION LEADERS PLEASE CONTACT US BY E MAIL IN THE FIRST INSTANCE	
Speech and Drama	Jill Parkin & Alison Jackson-Carter <i>jillparkin58@icloud.com</i> <i>alisonjacksoncarter@gmail.com</i>
Piano	Sharon Goodey <i>sharongoodey@hotmail.com</i>
Musical Theatre Singing	Jill Parkin & Rachel Clarke <i>rachelcooke_77@hotmail.com</i>
Classical Singing	Philippa Penkett
Strings, Harp and Classical Guitar	Naomi Poole <i>naomipoole@gmail.com</i>
Brass and Woodwind & Recorders	Philippa Penkett

There is NO festival office. If telephone calls are absolutely necessary please be aware of the time of your call.

ADJUDICATORS FOR 2026

All adjudicator biographies will be published in the programme

PIANO	Christian Dawson
	Joanna Lam
	Philippa Barton
STRINGS & CLASSICAL GUITARS	
BRASS, WOODWIND & RECORDERS	Clare Seymour
CLASSICAL SINGING	Jessica Edom-Carey
MUSICAL THEATRE SINGING	Samantha Hay
SPEECH AND DRAMA	Heather Davis

COMPETITIONS WILL BE HELD ON:

Friday 6 th November	Piano (various classes)	Trinity Methodist Church Rainsford Road CM1 2XB
Saturday 7 th November	Strings, Harp & Guitar Speech & Drama Classical Singing Piano	Trinity Methodist Church Rainsford Road CM1 2XB
	Piano	Quaker Meeting House Rainsford Road CM1 2QL
Friday 13 th November	Musical Theatre Singing	St Cedd's School New London Road CM2 0AR
Saturday 14 th November	Musical Theatre Singing Brass, Woodwind & Recorders	

ACCOMPANIST ARRANGEMENTS

Accompaniment for singers and instrumentalists

It is **now up to you to find your own accompanist**. We will help by giving you a list of people who are willing to be here on certain days and times along with the accepted fee for their time and expertise.

The fees for accompaniment have been agreed by everyone and are payable directly to the accompanist when you go for your run through. Please contact them as soon as you get your time and date and send them a copy of your music.

What am I paying for?	Fee
1 x 30 minute rehearsal and the festival performance	
Grades 1 – 4 standard (1 or 2 short pieces)	£25.00
Grades 5 & 6 standard (1 or 2 short pieces)	£30.00
Grade 7, 8 & Diploma (1 piece)	£40.00
Multiple or extended pieces may need more rehearsal time, for which a further charge will be made.	

Suggested Accompanists

Dr Emma Gibbins 07952514117

Christian Dawson 07816985235 (2nd weekend only)

Ed Montgomery 07912078444

Jill Parkin 07778772126

Susannah Edom 07887535942

Thomas Duchan 07526039372

**PRIVACY and GDPR NOTICE AND OUR SAFEGUARDING POLICY CAN
BE VIEWED ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE**

www.chelmsfordfestival.online

**COPIES WILL BE SENT TO YOU THROUGH OUR ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM.
COPIES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT EACH VENUE DURING THE FESTIVAL**

CHANGING, COACHING & WARM UP ROOMS

We cannot guarantee a warm up room at our venues. Please come prepared. However we will try to provide one if possible. For groups performing at St Cedd's a room must be booked with Philippa Penkett before the event. Please see our Safeguarding Policy for details of supervision.

RULES AND REGULATIONS	
It is very important to read these as there are changes this year	
1	COPIES OF MUSIC: Must be brought to the festival and given to the adjudicator at the start of the class.
2	COVID: In the event of the return of a large breakout of Covid 19, social distancing must be strictly adhered to. All government rules will be followed.
3	ELIGIBILITY: The festival is for amateurs, except for open classes. This does not apply to accompanists and conductors.
4	AGE: All ages of competitors will be calculated as of 31st August 2026. Open classes have no age limit. Year Group classes mean the school year is in from September 2026.
5	ENTRIES: All entries should be made online. Where this is not possible a paper form may be requested.
6	NUMBER OF ENTRIES: You may enter up to TWO SOLO classes in EACH SECTION plus group entries. This still gives you the flexibility to enter, for example, 2 piano PLUS 2 speech and drama PLUS 2 string classes. The EXCEPTION is for Strings, Harp and Classical Guitar which is being regarded as 2 sections. Classical and Musical Theatre Singing are separate sections.
6a	GROUP ENTRIES: As well as your solo entries you may also enter with a group.
7	LATE ENTRIES: The online entry system has a cut off date of 3 rd October 2026 at 6.00pm when no further entries can be made.
8	ENTRY FEES: The total correct entry fee must be sent via the Square link on your confirmation email, by BACS or on the Square QR CODE link (in the syllabus and on the website) immediately entries are made. Fees are not refundable.
9	ACCOMPANISTS: You are responsible for arranging and paying for someone to play for you. A suggested list of people to contact can be found on our website and in our printed syllabus. If

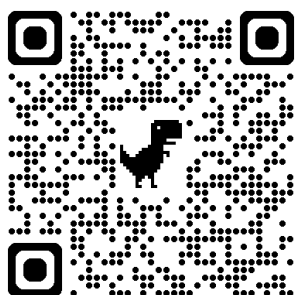
	your piece requires an accompanist it is best to use one rather than play unaccompanied. Contact your accompanist as soon as you have received your date and time.
10	PHOTOCOPIES: Adjudicators will require a copy of your piece.
11	OWN CHOICE PIECES: You are not allowed to play the same piece in more than ONE class.
12	REPEATS: No repeats to be played but da capo is necessary.
13	TIME LIMITS: Time limits of pieces must be strictly observed. Your introduction (if giving one) should be counted in the time.
14	TIME OF THE CLASS: The start time of each class will be sent to all competitors. We endeavour to start a class on time. Please arrive at the venue at least 10 minutes before the start time. Sometimes classes do over-run.
15	WHEN YOU HAVE ANOTHER CLASS: If you have another class in another room or building don't worry. We will change the order of competitors and call you again at the end.
16	MUSIC STANDS: A music stand will be provided for all SOLO competitors. Duettists and larger groups must bring their own stands.
17	ADJUDICATORS: The adjudicator's decision is final. Speaking to the adjudicator during the progress of a class is not allowed.
18	ASSESSMENT: Adjudicators are provided with our assessment criteria and marking scheme. A copy can be found on the website and in our syllabus.
19	CERTIFICATES: All Speech & Drama competitors will be awarded a certificate this year which we try to present after each class. Music certificates are running low and so we will award them to 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd place in each class. All competitors receive a marksheet with comments.
20	MEDALS: We are no longer awarding medals for high scores.
21	TROPHIES: We have a large number of trophies which, over the years have been kindly donated by Chelmsford dignitaries, businesses and individuals. They are on loan to you for the year and care should be taken with them.
22	TROPHIES: If a trophy is allocated to a class the winner of the class should be awarded 85 or more marks to receive the trophy.
23	TROPHIES: All trophies must be returned by September 20 September 2026. There is no excuse for any being late and it is your responsibility to get them back to us.
24	MARKSHEETS: The adjudicator will write comments about your performance giving hints and tips for the future. These should be collected after each class.
25	RECORDING AND PHOTOGRAPHY: It is strictly forbidden to use video or audio recording during performances, nor should you take photographs. This is against our Safeguarding policy and you will be removed from the premises if you are found to be doing this.
26	PHOTOGRAPHY: You may be able (if time permits) to take a photograph of your child with their certificate/trophy/adjudicator at the end of a class and with the permission of the steward and adjudicator. Please adhere to our safeguarding policy regarding social media.
27	PHOTOGRAPHY: With parental permission an officer of the festival may ask to take a photograph to be used on our Facebook page or website. When this is done, no names of children will be published.

28	DISQUALIFICATION: No competitor will be disqualified for whatever reason without the sanction of the Festival Chairman.
29	COMMITTEE DECISIONS: These are final, whether they be before the festival or during the events. We reserve the right to alter any arrangements.
30	COMMUNICATIONS: E mail is preferred please.
31	PERSONAL DATA: Please see our GDPR policy on the website. We hold data purely for the purposes of running the festival.
32	COPYRIGHT: All performances using music from shows in current production are subject to copyright law. They may be sung as a concert item with no costume or movement without the need for copyright. Where movement and costume is included copyright permission is required and the festival committee accepts these entries upon the understanding that permission has been sought.
33	AUDIENCE: Audience members are very welcome. Tickets may be obtained from the door for a nominal fee. Card payments are accepted as well as cash.
34	COACHING: No help or coaching of any kind should be given from the audience. No mouthing of words, no gestures etc.
35	USE OF BACKING TRACKS: Backing tracks are allowed in certain classes and are clearly shown in the syllabus. There is no piano in the speech and drama room therefore backing tracks must be used along with your OWN equipment. Most music solos will require and accompanist.



CLOSING DATE FOR ONLINE ENTRIES:
Saturday 3rd October 2026
at 18:00
NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE MADE YOUR ENTRY PLEASE PAY BY BACS or via our QR code here or on the website



Pay for your entries using the QR code

Many thanks

Audience admission fees during the festival card payments are acceptable as well as cash	
All festival dates	£5.00 all day session
	£3.50 per session (am or pm)
Senior Citizens	£3.00 per session or £4.50 all day
2 free admission tickets will be issued to adults who are accompanying groups Children under 16 will be free of charge	

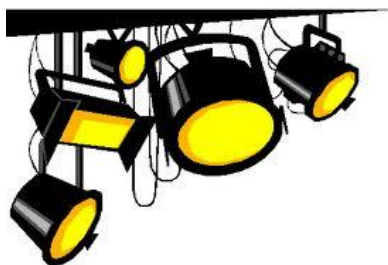
HOW TO USE OUR ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM

The task of preparing a syllabus, programme, spreadsheets, timetabling etc was always a daunting and very time consuming one. We have therefore subscribed to Run My Festival which takes all that work from us and produces lots of whizzy things for us. So, here's how to use it!

1. Login to www.chelmsfordfestival.online or go direct to **<https://chelmsfordfestival.runmyfestival.net>**
2. On the website go to **ONLINE ENTRY** tab and press on the link to **ONLINE REGISTRATION**
3. This takes you to run my festival pages and **NEW REGISTER HERE**
4. Once you have added your e mail address you will receive an e mail headed Thank you for registering. Click on the link and follow the instructions.
5. If you have already registered just log in with your user name and password.
6. You will see a message which says "Select entrant..... New.... From the menu and pick the type of entrant you would like". You will only see the classes available for that entrant. So if it's a soloist you'll only see solo classes, groups – only group classes etc.
7. **FOR SMALL GROUP ENTRIES** (duets, trios, quartets) click "**Create a new group with people**" which will then allow you to name individuals.
8. **FOR LARGE GROUP** entries click on "**Create a group by size**" – you don't need to fill in the names of your group members.
9. When you sign out the site takes you straight back to our webpage.
10. Once you've had a browse and decided your classes, make your entries and go to **CHECKOUT. Select pay via BACS then pay us the fee by BACS OR THE QR CODE BELOW.**

Teachers – this is a great way for you to give your pupils the link so you don't have to enter them yourself.

There is a cut off date and time of 3rd October 2026 at 18:00 and after this no entries will be allowed.



SPEECH AND DRAMA

Trinity Methodist Church: Second Floor Hall

ADJUDICATOR: Heather Davis

- ❖ A maximum of two solo classes may be chosen from this section
- ❖ Please adhere to the strict time limits shown
- ❖ All pieces are OWN CHOICE selections
- ❖ Please DO NOT use the same piece in two classes
- ❖ You may be part of a group as well as your 2 solo classes
- ❖ Trophies shown are subject to change

Rules for this section

1 GENERAL REGULATIONS: Please see our full rules list here or in the printed syllabus.

2 PROPS: Any personal props should be brought on the day. A table and chair can be provided if required. Please ask the steward before the class begins.

3 FAMILY AUDIENCE: All items presented should be suitable for a family audience. If not the performance may be stopped by a member of the committee or the adjudicator.

4 COACHING: No coaching, mouthing of words, gestures are permitted by the audience. The exception is in the Choral Speaking Class when a teacher may "conduct" their group.

5 SCRIPTS: Scripts are not allowed in any verse speaking or acting class, but may be used for pieces of PROSE. All performances are from memory.

7 PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO: Please see our general regulations but there is absolutely NO recording of a performance allowed at any time.

8 COSTUME: Costume may be worn if desired but is not essential. The performance is key!

9 MOVEMENT: Performers may present their work with or without movement. If movement is included the adjudicator may express a view as to whether this enhances the item or not.

10 SITTING OR STANDING: Verse speaking and prose should be performed (wherever possible) in a standing position. For other classes sitting may be acceptable to the performance.

SOLO VERSE SPEAKING BY AGE

One, own choice poem recited from memory

SD1	SOLO VERSE SPEAKING: 6 YEARS AND UNDER Not to exceed 2 minutes. Award: The Brooks Trophy	£7.50
SD2	SOLO VERSE SPEAKING: 7 AND 8 YEARS OF AGE Not to exceed 2 minutes.	£7.50

SD3	SOLO VERSE SPEAKING: 9 AND 10 YEARS OF AGE Not to exceed 3 minutes. Award: St Anne's Cup	£8.00
SD4	SOLO VERSE SPEAKING: 11 AND 12 YEARS OF AGE Not to exceed 3 minutes.	£8.00
SD5	SOLO VERSE SPEAKING: 13 - 15 YEARS OF AGE Not to exceed 3 minutes 30 seconds.	£8.50

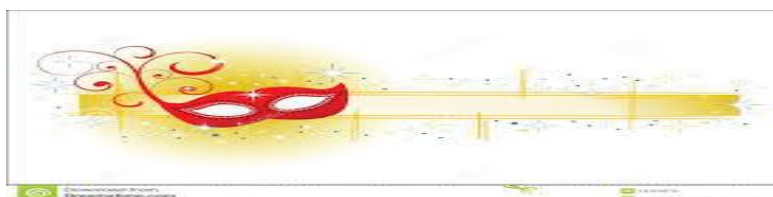
SOLO VERSE OR PROSE GRADED CLASSES

Verse speaking from memory; prose pieces may use the book.

One, own choice piece to be performed up to grade 4

Grades 5 and above classes must choose 2 contrasting poems/prose

SD6	SOLO VERSE OR PROSE: GRADED CLASS: STAGES 1 AND 2 Not to exceed 2 minutes. Award: The Bellamy Trophy	£7.50
SD7	SOLO VERSE OR PROSE: GRADED CLASS: STAGE 3 AND ENTRY Not to exceed 2 minutes. Award: St John's Cup	£7.50
SD8	SOLO VERSE OR PROSE: GRADED CLASS: GRADE 1 Not to exceed 3 minutes. Award: The Anderson Trophy	£8.00
SD9	SOLO VERSE OR PROSE: GRADED CLASS: GRADE 2 Not to exceed 3 minutes.	£8.00
SD10	SOLO VERSE OR PROSE: GRADED CLASS: GRADES 3 AND 4 Not to exceed 4 minutes. Award: Evelyn Wall Trophy	£8.50



SD11 & SD12: Two contrasting pieces to be performed. Candidates may choose to perform 2 poems, or one poem and a piece of prose. The poems should be performed from memory and for prose the text may be used.

SD11 SOLO VERSE OR PROSE: GRADED CLASS: £9.00
GRADE 5
Not to exceed 4 minutes 30 seconds.

SD12 SOLO VERSE OR PROSE: GRADED CLASS: £9.00
GRADE 6 AND ABOVE
Not to exceed 4 minutes 30 seconds.

ADULT CLASS

An own choice piece of poetry recited from memory. The poem may be one by a recognised poet or a self-penned composition.

SD13 SOLO VERSE OR PROSE: ADULT CLASS £8.50
Not to exceed 3 minutes 30 seconds.

POETRY GROUP WORK

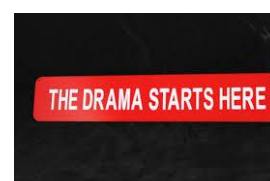
SD14 POETRY DUOLOGUE (for 2 £8.50
people) ANY AGE
Not to exceed 4 minutes.

SD15 GROUP VERSE SPEAKING: CHORAL Small Group - £12.50
SPEAKING Medium group - £14.50
Large group - £18.50

Minimum of 4 and maximum of 25 performers
Not to exceed 6 minutes.

Award: St John's Cup

SOLO ACTING



SD16 SOLO ACTING: 9 – 11 YEARS OF AGE £8.00
Not to exceed 3 minutes.

Award: Chelmsford City Council Cup for Drama

SD17 SOLO ACTING: 12 AND 13 YEARS OF AGE £8.50
Not to exceed 4 minutes.

Award: The Versatility Cup

SD18 SOLO ACTING: 14 AND 15 YEARS OF AGE £8.50
Not to exceed 4 minutes.

Award: The Richardson Trophy

SD19 SOLO ACTING: 16 TO 18 YEARS OF AGE £9.50
Not to exceed 5 minutes.

GROUP DRAMA

A piece of scripted drama written for 2 people

SD20 GROUP DRAMA: DUOLOGUE: (for £8.50
2 people) A SCRIPTED PIECE:
ANY AGE
Not to exceed 4 minutes.

Minimum of 3 performers in SD21 & SD22

SD21 GROUP WORK: JUNIOR Small Group: 3 - 10 - £12.50,
DRAMA: Medium group - 11 - 16 - £14.50,
SCRIPTED PIECE: Large Group: 17 - 25 - £18.50
9 - 14 YEARS OF AGE
Minimum of 2 and maximum of 25 performers
Not to exceed 6 minutes.

SD22 GROUP WORK: SENIOR Small Group: 3 - 10 - £12.50,
DRAMA: Medium group - 11 - 16 - £14.50,
SCRIPTED PIECE: Large Group: 17 - 25 - £18.50
15 YEARS AND OVER
Minimum of 2 and maximum of 25 performers
Not to exceed 8 minutes.

A piece of work which is self-devised. The group may consist of 2 to 6 performers.

SD23 GROUP DRAMA: DEvised SCRIPT any age £12.50
Minimum of 2 and maximum of 6 performers
Not to exceed 10 minutes.
Please be aware of the age of the audience who may be watching your performance

MUSICAL THEATRE LARGE GROUP PERFORMANCE

SEE ALSO THE SINGING FOR MUSICAL THEATRE SECTION FOR
MUSICAL THEATRE DUETS

A piece of own choice Musical theatre to include script and song from any musical. The piece may also include dance and/or movement BACKING TRACKS MAY BE USED

SD24 GROUP WORK: Small group (5-10) - £12.50,
SENIOR MUSICAL THEATRE Medium group (11 – 16) - £14.50,
(SECONDARY SCHOOL Large Group fee (17-25) - £18.50
AGES)
Minimum of 5 and maximum of 25 performers
Not to exceed 8 minutes.

SD25 GROUP WORK: Small Group(5-10) - £12.50
JUNIOR MUSICAL THEATRE Medium group (11-16) - £14.50
(PRIMARY SCHOOL AGES) Large Group (17-25) - £18.50
Minimum of 5 and maximum of 25 performers
Not to exceed 6 minutes.

This class may include adult performers as well as children.

SD26 GROUP WORK: Small Group: (5 – 10) - £12.50,
MIXED AGE MUSICAL Medium group – (11 – 16) - £14.50,
THEATRE Large Group: (17 – 25) - £18.50

Minimum of 5 and maximum of 25 performers
Not to exceed 8 minutes.

SD27 GROUP WORK: Small Group: (5 - 10) - £12.50,
ADULT MUSICAL THEATRE Medium sized group (11-16) - £14.50
Large group (17-25) - £18.50

Minimum of 5 and maximum of 25 performers
Not to exceed 8 minutes.

Use the QR code to pay for your entries

