



17th-20th March 2025
Mareel, Lerwick, Shetland

Syllabus

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SYLLABUS, RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following general rules will apply:

- 1** All Secondary school-age children involved in full-time education in a Shetland secondary school shall be eligible to participate in classes in the festival appropriate to their ability.
- 2** For all classes, the individual's name(s)/group name will be introduced prior to their performance. The individual/duet/group should then be prepared to introduce the pieces they are going to perform. For group classes/duet classes, Music staff should make sure there is someone nominated to take on this role.
- 3** Adult participation in any instrumental performance is restricted to a maximum of TWO – e.g. an accompanist/director or an accompanist and a director.
- 4** For Classes 47-49 inclusive, the template floor plan **MUST** be completed and submitted by the stipulated date.
- 5** In Woodwind, String, Accordion, Vocal, Guitar and Brass 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.
Please note that a duet entry utilising a third pupil in an accompanying capacity would be better suited to Class 47 Secondary Group (Small).
- 6** In Classes 47-49, school groups should enter by class but should be prepared to participate in sessions, which will mix groups from each of the three entry categories.
- 7** In Class 46 Composition, entries for this and all other classes must be put forward by a music teacher or music instructor.
- 8** In Classes 47-49, Primary pupils may be involved as part of an established group.

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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 Secondary pianist playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
2	Open to any Secondary pianist playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
3	Open to any Secondary pianist playing TWO pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above, contrasting in both period and style .

CLASS	PIANO DUET
4	Open to any two Secondary pianists playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
5	Open to any two Secondary pianists playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
6	Open to any two Secondary pianists playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above .

WOODWIND

In all solo and duet classes, pupils should be entered for the class most suited to their ability regardless of age. Recorder players may enter classes 7-12.

CLASS	WOODWIND SOLO
7	Open to any Secondary Woodwind player playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
8	Open to any Secondary Woodwind player playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
9	Open to any Secondary Woodwind player playing TWO pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above, contrasting in both period and style .

CLASS	WOODWIND DUET
10	Open to any two Secondary Woodwind players playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
11	Open to any two Secondary Woodwind players playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
12	Open to any two Secondary Woodwind players playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above .

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BRASS

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

CLASS	BRASS SOLO
13	Open to any Secondary Brass player playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
14	Open to any Secondary Brass player playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
15	Open to any Secondary Brass player playing TWO pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above, contrasting in both period and style .

CLASS	BRASS DUET
16	Open to any two Secondary Brass players playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
17	Open to any two Secondary Brass players playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
18	Open to any two Secondary Brass players playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above .

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
19	Open to any Secondary String player playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
20	Open to any Secondary String player playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
21	Open to any Secondary String player playing TWO pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above, contrasting in both period and style .

CLASS	STRING DUET
22	Open to any two Secondary String players playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
23	Open to any two Secondary String players playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
24	Open to any two Secondary String players playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above .

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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
25	Open to any Secondary vocalist singing ONE song of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
26	Open to any Secondary vocalist singing ONE song of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
27	Open to any Secondary vocalist singing TWO songs of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above, contrasting in both period and style .

CLASS	VOCAL DUET
28	Open to any two Secondary Vocalists singing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
29	Open to any two Secondary Vocalists singing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
30	Open to any two Secondary Vocalists singing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above .

ACCORDION

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

CLASS	ACCORDION SOLO
31	Open to any Secondary accordionist playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
32	Open to any Secondary accordionist playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
33	Open to any Secondary accordionist playing TWO pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above, contrasting in both period and style .

CLASS	ACCORDION DUET
34	Open to any two Secondary accordionists playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
35	Open to any two Secondary accordionists playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
36	Open to any two Secondary accordionists playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above .

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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
37	Open to any Secondary guitarist playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
38	Open to any Secondary guitarist playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 4-5 inclusive
39	Open to any Secondary guitarist playing TWO pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above, contrasting in both period and style.

CLASS	GUITAR DUET
40	Open to any two Secondary guitarists playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
41	Open to any two Secondary guitarists playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 4-5 inclusive .
42	Open to any two Secondary guitarists playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 6 and above .

DRUMS

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

CLASS	DRUM SOLO
43	Open to any Secondary drummer playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
44	Open to any Secondary drummer playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 4-5 inclusive
45	Open to any Secondary drummer playing TWO pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above, contrasting in both period and style.

COMPOSITION

CLASS	COMPOSITION
46	Open to any Secondary musician or group of musicians, not exceeding eight in number, to perform a piece of music composed by the individual or group of musicians. The performance time of the composition should not be less than two minutes thirty seconds and not more than three minutes thirty seconds. As much information as possible relating to the composition should be submitted with the entry. Entries for this class may only be made by a music staff member.

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GROUPS

In classes 47-49 inclusive, where applicable, Instrumental Instructors who are responsible for instruction in more than one school are free to form inter-school groups if viable numbers are not available in any one school in which they teach.

CLASS	GROUPS (SMALL)
47	<p>Open to any group combination of instrumentalist and/or vocalists currently in full-time Secondary education, playing music of their own choice.</p> <p>There must be a <u>minimum of 3 distinct parts (with harmonies as appropriate) and a maximum of 8 performers.</u></p> <p>The performing time of each group <u>should not exceed 6 minutes.</u></p> <p>In Class 47, Primary pupils may be involved as part of an established larger group.</p>

CLASS	GROUPS (LARGE)
48	<p>Open to any group combination of instrumentalists and/or vocalists currently in full-time Secondary education, playing music of their own choice.</p> <p>There must be a <u>minimum of 4 distinct parts (with harmonies as appropriate) and a minimum of 9 performers.</u></p> <p>The performing time of each group <u>should not exceed 6 minutes.</u></p> <p>In Class 48, Primary pupils may be involved as part of an established larger group.</p>

CLASS	SCHOOL CHOIRS
49	<p>Open to any singing group or choir comprising pupils currently in Secondary education, performing TWO contrasting pieces of their own choice.</p> <p>A group of accompanying instrumentalists is permissible.</p> <p>The performing time for each choir <u>should not exceed 6 minutes.</u></p> <p>In Class 49, Primary pupils may be involved as part of an established larger group.</p>

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OPEN

Classes 50 to 53 allow for pupils playing instruments not already categorised above to take part in the Festival.

Pupils should be entered for the class most suited to their ability regardless of age. Please refer to the SQA listings with regards to the most suitable class to enter. These are available from any secondary school music department.

CLASS	OPEN SOLO
50	Open to any Secondary pupil playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grades 1-3 inclusive .
51	Open to any Secondary pupil playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 4-5 inclusive
52	Open to any Secondary pupil playing TWO pieces of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 6 and above, contrasting in both period and style .

CLASS	OPEN DUET
53	Open to any two Secondary pupils playing ONE piece of their own choice at a standard equivalent to Grade 1 and above .

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YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR CLASSES

CLASS	Young Musician of the Year (Junior)
54	<p>Open to instrumentalists and vocalists currently resident in Shetland. The junior competition is for primary school-age and S1 performers receiving full-time education in Shetland during session 2022/2023</p> <p>Competitors for the junior competition must present a programme of a standard not less than Grade 2 or equivalent and must present a programme of TWO pieces of their own choice, contrasting in BOTH period and style. There may be further selection by the Committee if the number of entries is too large.</p> <p>The music chosen should be standard repertoire (Not Traditional) but may include original compositions. Any original composition must be of the required standard and 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> <p>Entries for the Junior Section should be submitted on the separate SYMF Entry Form and the pieces to be performed should be indicated.</p>

Young Musician of the Year (Senior)

Open to instrumentalists and vocalists currently resident in Shetland. The senior competition is open to secondary school-age performers receiving full-time education in a Shetland secondary school in session 2022/23 who have not attained their 19th birthday by 1st March 2023.

Instrumental Instruction Staff are asked to submit a separate SYMF Entry Form for any pupil to be considered for the Senior section of the competition along with their usual standard entry form for the class entry.

The finalists for the Senior Competition will be selected by the adjudicator during their respective classes in the festival. Pupils playing two instruments and chosen for the Senior Competition may be given the opportunity to include both instruments in their final programme if the adjudicator deems this to be appropriate.

Competitors for the senior competition must present programme of **a standard not less than Grade 6 or equivalent** and must present a contrasting programme of music not exceeding 8 minutes in total.

The music chosen should **be standard repertoire (not Traditional)** but may include original compositions. **Any original composition must be of the** required standard **and** 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.

The winner of the Young Musician of the Year (Senior) Competition may not enter again in subsequent years.

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GENERAL REGULATIONS

1	Digital entries and entry forms should be submitted no later than Monday February 24th 2024 and can be accessed here
2	For Young Musician Of the Year entries a copy of the music to be played must be submitted with the entry.
3	Once an entry has been made it cannot be altered. One competitor may not be substituted for another, except in groups.
4	A programme of classes – including the Junior and Senior Young Musician competitions – giving dates and approximate times, will be issued approximately one week before the Festival.
5	Participants should attend at least 30 minutes before the estimated time of their performance, other than at the commencement of a session.
6	Competitors are expected to make their own arrangements to attend the session(s) in which they are to play.
7	In all classes and in the Young Musician of the Year Competition, the Adjudicator's decisions are final. 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 later.
8	Members of the public will be admitted to all Festival sessions, and to the Gala Concert.
9	Certificates of Achievement will be awarded at Gold, Silver and Bronze level to participants who achieve the criteria for each award as determined by the adjudicator. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold will be awarded for “an exceptional performance, technically and artistically”; • Silver for “a convincing performance, technically and artistically” and • Bronze for “a performance showing some artistic appreciation and/or technical ability.”
10	Cups and Trophies will be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator and on condition that these will be returned to the SYMF before the next Festival.
11	We are grateful to Shetland ForWirds for their support. Please note entries in Shetland Dialect are encouraged and one exceptional performer or group will be given the opportunity to perform at the Shetland ForWirds concert later in the year.
12	The Gala Concert will contain performances by both the Junior and Senior Young Musician of the Year. The Concert programme is assembled in consultation between the festival adjudicator and members of the Festival working group to ensure a balanced programme for the evening.
13	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 group classes, however, we cannot fund all transport costs. We hope we can work in partnership with schools to ensure a positive outcome.

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