

# NNMF

## North Northamptonshire Music Festival



# 2025

# Syllabus

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY - North Northamptonshire Music Festival**

The NNMF Festival is committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind.

We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them.

This Policy applies to all Involved with North Northamptonshire Music Festival.

### **We recognise that:**

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

### **The purpose of the policy:**

- to provide protection for the children and young people who participate in our festivals, including the children of festival members
- to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt if they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

### **We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:**

- valuing them, listening to, and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff, and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

The festival will review this policy each year in January in line with safe network guidance or sooner considering any changes in legislation or guidance. All changes will be communicated to our volunteers & staff.

# Festival Rules of Entry

## ENTRIES

1. All entries must be made on the official entry forms ONLINE, either by email to northnorthantsmf@gmail.com, OR by post and submitted as a paper entry reaching the festival on or before the closing date as given in the syllabus.
2. Late entries & changes to pieces submitted past the cut off date **will not** be accepted
3. No entry will be accepted UNLESS payment for the class has been received. You may be asked for Proof of payment with Payment Reference as indicated on Entry Form. The festival reserves the right to refuse any entry.
4. Each entrant must be in the appropriate school year group for each class.  
Group entries must belong to the specified year groupings.
5. Performers in all ensemble classes must be bona fide members of the group concerned

## GENERAL

1. The Festival is for amateurs, which is defined as someone who is employed on a Full-Time basis for their services rendered in those branches of the arts with which the festival is concerned. This rule does not apply to a Musical Director or Accompanist
2. The Festival reserves the right to limit, cancel or subdivide any class
3. The Festival reserves the right to substitute any Adjudicator without notice.
4. No photographs or recordings may be taken *DURING ANY PERFORMANCE* (other than the designated photographer) but may be taken after the performance *WITH RELEVANT PERMISSION*.
5. The Festival cannot accept responsibility for property left at the venues during the festival
6. Confirmation of venue, date, and time of classes will be available on the festival website ([www.northnorthantsmf.co.uk](http://www.northnorthantsmf.co.uk)) or in the printed programme when available.



### **OWN CHOICE PIECES**

1. A copy of Own Choice pieces must be provided for the Adjudicator's use on the day and be marked with name and class number, otherwise the performance will be judged non-competitively.
2. Where music has an accompaniment, this should be used.
3. Backing Tracks are not permitted in any class
4. No alterations can be made to pieces once you have submitted your entry, if your piece is different to the piece submitted it will be marked Non-Competitively so please ensure that the pieces you submit aren't likely to change.

### **ASSESSMENT & AWARDS**

1. Whilst performance in some classes has a competitive element, it is not an examination, and the intention is to offer a performance opportunity in a supportive environment.
2. The Following Remarks will be given for Choral & Solo. ***(Please see separate mark sheet for the Barbershop Festival on the Barbershop Section of our website).***

- \*Outstanding - An exceptional performance technically and artistically*
- \*Distinction - An excellent performance technically and artistically*
- \*Commended - A convincing performance technically and artistically*
- \*Merit - A capable performance showing some artistic appreciation and/or technical ability*
- \*Moderate - A performance showing development of technique and/or communication*
- \*Fair - A performance limited in its communication at present*

3. The Adjudicator's decision will be regarded as final.
5. No entrant, teacher or interested party may discuss any aspect of the Festival with an Adjudicator before, during or after classes, except at the invitation of the Adjudicator.
5. Every entrant will receive a Performance Certificate and the Adjudicator's comments. After adjudication, certificates and awards will be presented. Awards may be withheld if, in the opinion of the Adjudicator, sufficient merit is not shown.
6. Trophies remain the property of the North Northamptonshire Music Festival and should be returned to the festival one month prior to the next Festival

## **COPYRIGHT**

1. It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure that the provisions of the 1956 and 1988 Copyright Acts are observed. The Music Publishers' Association has revised its Code of Practice in so far as Own Choice Works selected from volumes is concerned: When selecting from a publication containing several different works and where the required work is not published separately, one copy may be made for the Adjudicator. The copy will be retained by the festival and destroyed.

This permission does not apply to set works nor to making copies for accompanists who must always be given an original copy from which to play. Single copies of items may not be photocopied without the prior permission of the Copyright holder.

2. Performers in Own Choice Classes will be required to submit a copy to the Adjudicator's Steward stating TITLE – AUTHOR - PUBLISHER.
3. Barbershop Classes are not required to submit copies of music to adjudicators on the festival day

## **SPONSORSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION**

We are a self-financing organisation run by a team of dedicated volunteers. We need help financially, to enable the festival - your Festival - to maintain a service of the highest quality and to plan future festivals with confidence.

## **FRIENDS & SPONSORS**

1. Members of the public are invited to support the festival financially by becoming Friends or Sponsors.
2. Class Sponsors can select the class for which their award will be made, subject to that class not already being sponsored. If the chosen class has insufficient entries to justify an award then it will be held until the following the year.
3. To become a class sponsor an Annual Fee of £50 is to be made to the festival. If the fee is not received annually then the festival has the right to withdraw your award and pass it to another sponsor.
4. If anyone wishes to donate a trophy, plaque, or cup then that generosity will be recorded in a list published in the festival programme. This may well be relevant to commemorate someone as a form of memorial. If this is something which appeals to you, please get in touch with the festival and we will be delighted to discuss the possibility with you.

***North Northamptonshire Music Festival 2025***

## 2025 Choral & Solo Adjudicator



### Charlotte King

Charlotte King is a distinguished and highly accomplished mezzo-soprano and teacher with an impressive career in both performance and music education. Born in London, she completed her BMus (Hons) and MMus at Goldsmiths College, University of London, where she performed numerous operatic roles, including the title role in *Carmen*, Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Mrs. Sedley in *Peter Grimes*, as well as Elgar's *Sea Pictures*. She furthered her studies at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, earning a Guildhall Artist Masters (MMus).

Charlotte's professional career has seen her perform with some of the UK's most respected opera companies and festivals. Highlights include singing Siegrune in *Die Walküre* at the St. Endellion Festival, *Pique Dame* and *Dialogues des Carmélites* with Grange Park Opera, *Cunning Little Vixen* and *Fidelio* with Garsington Opera, and *Don Giovanni* and *La Rondine* for Opera Holland Park. She has also performed at the BBC Proms as a member of the English National Opera chorus and appeared in their productions of *Luisa Miller* and *Peter Grimes*. Charlotte's performances have taken her internationally as well, including recitals at the Musique Cordiale Festival in France and engagements with the renowned P&O Music Festivals at Sea.

In addition to her operatic accomplishments, Charlotte has extensive experience as a concert soloist. Her repertoire includes *Mozart's Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*, *Verdi's Requiem*, *Bach's St. John Passion* and *Christmas Oratorio*, and *Jenkins' The Armed Man*, showcasing her versatility and depth in both sacred and secular works.

In addition to her successful performance career, Charlotte is an inspiring and experienced educator. She is a trained secondary music teacher and currently teaches singing at Ashford School and The Junior King's School in Canterbury. With over fifteen years of experience teaching with Stagecoach Perming Arts at various schools across Essex and Kent, Charlotte has coached students who have gone on to perform at notable venues such as the Shaftesbury Theatre and His Majesty's Theatre. A skilled musical director, she has musically fronted multiple musical theatre productions, including *Legally Blonde*, *My Fair Lady*, *Chicago*, and *The Wiz*.

# 2025 Barbershop Festival Adjudicators



## Alan Hughes – Music Judge

*Alan Hughes is currently the Head of Performing Arts at St Edmunds Catholic Academy, Wolverhampton. He took a degree in Commercial Music Production at Liverpool University and a PGCE in Secondary Music at Edge Hill University, where he was awarded the Performing Arts Excellence Scholarship.*

*Alan is also the Assistant Musical Director of "MaleVox", recently crowned "Midlands Choir of the Year" in July 2024, and he has been a Certified British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS) judge since 2016. He has performed in numerous BABS Championship Choruses, and won the coveted BABS Quartet Championship in 2008 with "Monkey Magic" who went on to sign with Sony Music and released "Christmas Time" in 2010 as "The Great British Barbershop Boys". With his quartet, he has performed in venues such as St Paul's Cathedral, Wembley Stadium, the Royal Albert Hall, the London Palladium and on BBC TV & radio.*

*In addition to regular coaching of barbershop groups across the UK, Alan has coached at the BABS "Harmony College" on a number of occasions and, in 2023, at the Barbershop Harmony Society's "Harmony University" in New Orleans. He served in a number of roles on the BABS Board of Trustees from 2017 to 2023.*



## Jill Foscett – Performance Judge

Jill first Certified as a Performance Category Judge in March 2018. She has been involved with Barbershop since 2004 and sung with an SAI Chorus, LABBS Choruses, LABBS Quartets and since 2017, a BABS Mixed Voice Chorus.

Before finding Barbershop, Jill was a seasoned Actor in Amateur Dramatic Societies and particularly enjoyed comedy and character roles. She is trained in Classical Ballet and Tap for which she achieved a Gold Medal as an adult, so she is particularly interested in physical performance and visual interpretation.

Jill is passionate about self-development and enabling the development of other people. She has qualifications in teaching adults (Level 6 Professional Graduate Certificate in Post Compulsory Education), Assessing learning and skills, Coaching and Careers Guidance. Much of Jill's work centred around working with people who experienced barriers to work and learning and she puts this into practice in her work within the BABS D&I Team.



## Barry Clinton – Singing Judge

Barry has been a Barbershopper for 36 years and sang with Hallmark of harmony in Sheffield UK, and several quartets over the years, and now coaches' quartets and Choruses in the UK. Barry became the chorus director for Hallmark in 2000 and became a BABS singing judge in 2007 and is the current BABS contest and judging team singing category director.

Barry has visited the USA several times over the years to take part in various Barbershop harmony society events as a Judge, Chorus director and competitor. Barry is delighted to be invited to judge the Barbershop classes at the North Northamptonshire Music festival.

# **Saturday 7th June 2025**

## **CHORAL CLASSES**

Each Choral Entry should last no longer than the allotted time for each class  
Pieces **MUST NOT** have been performed the year previous.

### **C1. Community Choir - Entry £27.50**

*Own Choice – Max 3 Songs – 12 Minutes*

*\*NEW – Must not compete regularly in National or International Competitions*

### **C2. Ladies Choir - Entry £27.50**

*Own Choice – Max 3 Songs - No Medleys – 12 Minutes*

### **C3. Male Voice Choir - Entry £27.50**

*Own Choice – Max 3 Songs – No Medleys – 12 Minutes*

### **C4. Mixed Voices Class - Entry £27.50**

*Own Choice – Max of 3 Songs – No Medleys – 12 Minutes*

### **C5. Sacred Class - Entry £27.50**

*Any Sacred Piece – Max of 2 Songs – 10 Minutes*

### **C6. Village Choir – Entry £27.50**

*Max 2 Songs – No Medleys - 10 Minutes*

### **C7. Youth Choir - £20**

*Primary & Secondary School Children or 18 Years Under – Max 2 Songs – 10 Minutes*

### **C8. Show Songs - £27.50**

*Open Category – Max 2 Songs – 10 Minutes*

### **C9. Open Category – £30**

*Any Song – Any Choir – Any Size – Any Level - 12 Minutes*

*Up to 3 Songs*

**Entry Deadline – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025**

**Estimated timetable – 10.30am Start**



# **SOLO CLASSES**

Each Entry should last no longer than the allotted time for each class  
Pieces **MUST NOT** have been performed the year previous.

## **S1. Solo Class Under 18's – Entry £20**

*1 Song – Own Choice – Must be accompanied by piano – Class broken down into age groups  
(8-14 Years)  
(15-20 Years)*

## **S2. Solo Class – 21+ Years - Entry £20**

*Own Choice – Max of 2 Songs – 8 Minutes - Must be accompanied by piano*

## **S3. Solo Class – 65+ Years - Entry £20**

*Own Choice – Max 2 Songs – 8 Minutes – Must be accompanied by piano*

## **Estimated timetable – 12noon**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Barbershop CLASSES**

*\*Must be registered/affiliated with a Barbershop Organisation*

Each Barbershop Entry should last no longer than the allotted time for each class  
Pieces **CAN** be performed that were performed the previous year.

***Copies of music are not needed for the adjudicators***

**B1. Mixed Chorus – Entry £25**

*Max of 2 Songs – Own Choice – 10 Minutes*

**B2. All Female Chorus - Entry £25**

*Own Choice – Max 2 Songs – 10 Minutes*

**B3. All Male Chorus - Entry £25**

*Own Choice – Max 2 Songs – 10 Minutes*

**B4. Open Female Quartet - Entry £20**

*Own Choice – Max 2 Songs – 10 Minutes*

**B5. Open Male Quartet – Entry £20**

*Own Choice – Max 2 Songs – 10 Minutes*

**B6. Open Mixed Quartet – Entry £20**

*Own Choice – Max 2 Songs – 10 Minutes*

**B7. Open Barbershop Chorus - Entry £25**

*Own Choice – Max 2 Songs – 10 Minutes*

**B8. Open Barbershop Quartet – Entry £20**

*Own Choice – Max 2 Songs – 10 Minutes*

**B9. Barbershop of the Year – Quartet/Chorus - £30**

*Own Choice – Max 2 Songs – 10 Minutes*

**Entry Deadline – 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

**Estimated timetable – 10.30am**