

Festival Syllabus for 2025



ROCHESTER AND NORTH KENT MUSIC AND DRAMA FESTIVAL

To be held on Saturday 5th April 2025
at Holcombe Grammar School
Letchworth Avenue, Chatham, ME4 6JB

***Entries must be received by
Saturday 8th February 2025***

Supported by:



Please visit our website, where you can download the
syllabus and entry forms:

www.rnkmdf.org.uk

Honorary President: The Reverend Canon Neil Thompson

Patron: The Worshipful, the Mayor of Medway

Chairman: Dr D C Hubbard

Chairman's letter to all performers, teachers and parents.

Dear All

I am delighted to welcome you to our syllabus brochure for our GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL in the spring of 2025. Our Festival began as the Gillingham Music Festival in 1975 and, under various names, has continued throughout, with the only break being Covid. We are planning to make this year's festival a really bumper one and I would like to encourage you all to enter as many classes as possible across the board in all the genres, so that we have a really wide spectrum of music and drama on the day. Can I not only encourage you to enter but to encourage your friends to join us as well.

I'm really looking forward to next spring!!

Dudley

Our Adjudicators for 2024 are:

Music

Joseph Tong

Nicola-Jane Kemp

Irene Grant-Jones

Speech and Drama:

Anita Downey

The Rochester and North Kent Music and Drama Festival (Registered
Charity No: 287764) is affiliated to:
*The British and International Federation of Festivals for
Music, Dance and Speech*



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How the festival works

Festival Day

Soon after the closing date for entries, the volunteers on our committee start the task of putting together a programme for the Festival Day. You will receive your programme, before the day, either by email or post.

When you arrive, please ensure that you register at the Reception Desk. If any relatives or friends are coming with you, they will need to pay an admission charge to see you perform.

Your ticket(s) entitles you to watch and listen to any of the classes in any room.

Please provide your own accompanist if you need one; the contact details of our Official Recommended Accompanist are on page 23. It is important that you arrange a rehearsal before the festival.

A Warm-up Room for individuals, ensembles and choirs will be available throughout the day.

When it comes to your class(es), make sure you are in the correct room in good time. After all the performers for each class have finished performing, the adjudicator will talk about each of the performances, indicating what was especially good and what you could perhaps work on to improve. You will be given a mark, and if that is the highest mark in that class, you could win a medallion or trophy. All entrants will receive a certificate. Please note that class trophies have not been included in this syllabus; they will be allocated before the festival and included in the programme.

Championship Concert

We offer the opportunity for the winners and high scorers to perform again in this special concert on Saturday 10th May 2025 where further trophies and prizes are awarded. For more information about this concert see page 25.

What do you gain by entering the festival?

The RNKMD Festival gives entrants an opportunity to:

- 1) Perform in front of a supportive and enthusiastic audience of family, friends, other entrants and their supporters
- 2) Receive feedback from specialist adjudicators, so that they can improve and develop their skills. This can be especially useful to students preparing for School or Music examinations, as they can gain experience in performing to an audience and benefit from the advice given by the adjudicators
- 3) Receive recognition of their achievements in the form of certificates, cups and medallions

NB We have introduced some non-competitive classes for 2025. Junior Choirs of all abilities can sing any type of song in Class V24A without the pressure of competition. This is also true for Junior Singers in Class V34 and Adult Singers in Class V23. All entrants in these classes will receive constructive feedback and certificates.

How to enter the festival

By entering this Festival, you are giving consent to your information being collected and stored by the festival. The festival's GDPR Data Protection Policy is published on the festival website: www.rnkmdf.org.uk

- 1) Look through this syllabus and put together a list of classes you would like to enter. Entrants are allowed a **maximum of 6 individual entries across two genres**. This is to ensure that we can create a timetable without clashes. **NB** The three genres in our festival are: i) Vocal ii) Piano and Instrumental iii) Speech and Drama
- 2) Once you have chosen your classes, calculate the fees for each class using the table. Then fill in the entry form supplied with this syllabus (please take care to complete the correct form for your chosen classes and sign the second page) and send it by email to the **Entry Secretary** (email address below) to arrive by **Saturday 8th February 2025** at the latest. **When sending your entry, remember that there is a 50% discount for the fourth class entered.**
- 3) Payment of entry fees can be made by bank transfer (BACS). Please contact the Festival and Entry Secretary, by email, for details - contact details below. Please note that, in normal circumstances, no refunds are given. However, please read the Cancellation Policy on page 26 of this syllabus, to find out what happens if the festival cannot take place.
- 4) We are pleased to announce that a Bursary Fund is available to support entrants aged 18 or under who could benefit from financial help with paying the entry fees. Please contact the Festival Secretary for further details. Applications must be made in writing by **Saturday 1st February 2025**. Any requests for assistance will be treated in the strictest confidence.
- 5) The Festival Association is a registered charity and, as such, the fees of performers and audience are all used to manage the Festival Association and meet the costs of the festival and concert. All members of the committee (and helpers) are voluntary and unpaid.

Festival and Entry Secretary

Mrs Janet Wilkinson

22 Friston Way

Rochester

ME1 2UU

Tel: 01634 316677

Email: rnkmdfestival1@virginmedia.com

IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you read the Conditions and Rules of Entry (page 21) before submitting your entry.

VOCAL CLASSES

FEES:

Solo Classes: £9

Choirs of 11 to 20 performers: £40

Choirs of 21 + performers: £50

Ensembles of up to 10 performers: £30

£15 for a duet; £20 for a trio; £25 for a quartet

1. **A copy of the music must be provided for the adjudicator**
2. To conform to normal performance practice, competitors in the Oratorio and Lieder classes may sing from the music. A music stand will be provided, if required. **For all other classes, performers should sing from memory, without copies.**
3. All vocal classes are for either male or female competitors, unless otherwise stated.
4. Choirs must have more than one singer to each harmonic part, in classes V1 and V2A
5. Please note that art songs are defined as:
‘Secular (non-sacred) songs, written for voice and piano: they are often a setting of a text or poem.’ They do not include popular songs or material from films or shows.
6. Please arrange for someone to accompany you and state their name on the entry form.

Vocal Classes for Adults

For additional classes please see ‘Classes for all ages’

V1 12 mins	Senior Choirs: Single or mixed gender Own choice of two contrasting songs, in harmonised parts, with or without accompaniment.
V2A 12 mins	Gospel or Church Choirs: Single or mixed gender Own choice of two contrasting sacred songs, in harmonised parts, with or without accompaniment.
V2B 12 mins	Community Choirs: Single or mixed gender Own choice of two contrasting songs, with or without accompaniment. NB Backing tracks will be permitted in this class. Please ensure that the accompaniment is BACKING ONLY. Background vocals are not permitted.
V3 12 mins	Vocal Ensemble: complement of 5-10 voices. Own choice of song (s), any voices in harmonised parts, with or without accompaniment
V4 5 mins	Vocal Duet: any combination of voices. Own choice of one song, in two harmonised parts. Each part should make a significant contribution to the performance, with or without accompaniment.

V5 5 mins	Vocal Trio or Quartet: any combination of voices Own choice of one song, in three or four harmonised parts, with or without accompaniment.
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V6 15 mins	Recital: Own choice of three contrasting art songs by any composer(s) and from any era. <i>NB It is advisable, though not compulsory, to link the three pieces by theme</i>
V7 7 mins	Operatic Aria: Own choice of operatic aria, with or without recitative.
V8 7 mins	Operetta: Own choice of aria from any operetta, by any composer (including Gilbert and Sullivan) and from any era.
V9 6 mins	Over 50s Class: Own choice of one song. Performers may use a music score for this class. A music stand will be provided.
V10 7 mins	Oratorio or Cantata Aria: Own choice of aria (with relevant recitative, if wished). Performers may use a music score for this class. A music stand will be provided.
V11 5 mins	Handel Song Class (not Oratorio or Cantata): Own choice of one song by Handel.
V12 5 mins	Sacred Song (not Oratorio or Cantata): Own choice of one sacred song.
V13 7 mins	Lieder: Own choice of one song, by any recognised lied composer, to be sung in German. A short synopsis of the song should be given as an introduction. Performers may use a music score for this class. A music stand will be provided.
V14 5 mins	British or American Art Song: Own choice of one song by a British or American composer.
V15 5 mins	European Art Song: Own choice of one song by a European, but not British, composer. (e.g. Cimarosa, Giordano, Scarlatti, etc).
V16 5 mins	Set Song: <i>Sweet chance that led my steps abroad</i> by Michael Head Or <i>Down by the Salley Gardens</i> by Ivor Gurney

V17 5 mins	Shakespeare set to Music: Own choice of one song, by any composer, from a work by William Shakespeare.
V18 5 mins	Songs from Musicals: Own choice of one song from any musical, stage show or film etc., from the 20th century onwards (except Disney songs). Please note that actions are to be encouraged in this class, but costumes or props are not permitted
V19 5 mins	Popular Song: Own choice of one song from any commercial genre (e.g. Pop, Chart, R & B, Soul, Hip Hop, Light Music)
V20 5 mins	Jazz, Swing or Blues Song: Own choice of one song that fits into any of these categories.
V21 5 mins	Music Hall or Humorous Song: Own choice of one song
V22 5 mins	Folk Song of any Nationality: Own choice of one song, with or without accompaniment.
V23 4 mins	Non-competitive class for Adult Singers Own choice of one song. All entrants will receive feedback and certificates, but no marks will be awarded.

Vocal classes for Children and Young People

For additional classes please see 'Classes for all ages'

This section is for performers who are in full- time education up to NC Year 13.

FEES:

Choirs of 11 to 20 performers: £40 (£20 for V24 and V24A); £25 for V25 and V25A); Choirs of 21 + performers: £50 (£25 for V24 and V24A); £30 for V25 and V25A)

Solo classes: £9; Duet: £15

Please note that we have reduced our fees for individual entries for children under the age of 11. The fee for these classes will be £6 per class.

1. Please arrange an accompanist and state their name on the entry form. A piano is provided, but any instrument may be used for accompanying.
2. Recorded accompaniment is permitted in certain classes (see class details) Please ensure that the accompaniment is **BACKING ONLY**. Background vocals are not permitted. Contact the Entry Secretary to find out the range of technical options available.
3. **A copy of the music must be provided for the adjudicator**
4. All performers should sing from memory, where possible.
5. Choirs must have more than one singer to each harmonic part. However, entrants in classes V24, V24A and V25A may choose to sing in unison.

V24 7 mins	School or Junior Choirs (NC Years 1-6): Own choice of two contrasting songs, with or without accompaniment (small percussion is permitted, if desired). This must be more music based as opposed to action, or dance, based. However, limited movement, within the performance area, is permitted.
V24A 7 mins	Non-competitive class for Junior Choirs (NC Years 1-6) NB This is a new addition to our syllabus! Own choice of one or two songs, with or without accompaniment. As with Class V24, there can be some movement in the performance area. All entrants will receive feedback and certificates, but no marks will be awarded.
V25 10 mins	School or Youth Choirs (NC Years 7-13): Own choice of two contrasting songs, with or without accompaniment (small percussion is permitted, if desired). This must be more music based as opposed to action, or dance, based. However, limited movement, within the performance area, is permitted.
V25A 10 mins	Vocal Group (NC Years 7-13) Own choice of two contrasting songs. NB Backing tracks will be permitted in this class. Please ensure that the accompaniment is BACKING ONLY. Background vocals are not permitted.
V26 5 mins	Vocal Duet (NC Years 10-13): any combination of voices. Own choice of one, or more, songs in two parts.

V27A 5 mins	Classical Song (NC Years 1-6) Own choice of one song.
V27B 5 mins	Classical Song (NC Years 7-9) Own choice of one song
V27C 5 mins	Classical Song (NC Years 10-13) Own choice of one song
V28A 5 mins	Sacred Song (NC Years 1-6) Own choice of one sacred song
V28B 5 mins	Sacred Song (NC Years 7-9) Own choice of one sacred song
V28C 5 mins	Sacred Song (NC Years 10-13) Own choice of one song
V29 5 mins	Carol or Hymn (Up to year 13) Own choice of a carol or hymn
V30 5 mins	Lieder (NC Years 10-13): Own choice of one song, by any recognised lied composer, to be sung in German. A short synopsis of the song should be given as an introduction.

	Performers may use a music score for this class. A music stand will be provided.
V31A 5 mins	<p>Songs from Musicals (NC Years 1-6) Own choice of one song from any musical, stage show or film etc., from the 20th century onwards (except Disney songs). Please note that actions are to be encouraged in this class, but costumes or props are not permitted.</p> <p>Recorded accompaniment/backing tracks ONLY</p> <p>Note: Please ensure that the chosen song is appropriate for the age of the singer.</p>

V31B 5 mins	<p>Songs from Musicals (NC Years 7-9): Own choice of one song from any musical, stage show or film etc., from the 20th century onwards (except Disney songs). Please note that actions are to be encouraged in this class, but costumes or props are not permitted.</p> <p>Recorded accompaniment/backing tracks ONLY</p>
V31C 5 mins	<p>Songs from Musicals Pre-1963 (NC Years 10-13): Own choice of one song from any musical, stage show or film etc. (except Disney songs) composed pre-1963.</p> <p>NB – LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT ONLY</p>
V31D 5 mins	<p>Songs from Musicals Post- 1963 (NC Years 10-13): Own choice of one song from any musical, stage show or film etc. (except Disney songs) composed post- 1963.</p> <p>Recorded accompaniment/backing tracks ONLY</p>
V32A 5 mins	<p>Disney or other animated film song (NC Years 1-6) Own choice of one song from any animated film by Disney or any other film maker (e.g. Warner Brothers, etc.).</p> <p>Recorded accompaniment/backing tracks ONLY</p>
V32B 5 mins	<p>Disney or other animated film song (NC Years 7-9): See above</p> <p>Recorded accompaniment/backing tracks ONLY</p>
V32C 5 mins	<p>Disney or other animated film song (NC Years 10-13): See above</p> <p>Recorded accompaniment/backing tracks ONLY</p>
V33A 5 mins	<p>Popular Song (NC Years 7-9): Own choice of one song from any commercial genre (e.g. Pop, Chart, R & B, Soul; could include Jazz or Swing)</p> <p>Recorded accompaniment/backing tracks ONLY</p>
V33B 5 mins	<p>Popular Song (NC Years 10-13): See above</p> <p>Recorded accompaniment/backing tracks ONLY</p>

V34 4 mins	Non-competitive class for Young Singers – up to NC Year 13 Own choice of one song. All entrants will receive feedback and certificates, but no marks will be awarded.
V35 5 mins	Folk Song of any Nationality Own choice of one folk song, with or without accompaniment

Vocal classes for all ages

Solo classes: £9 (All ages)

V36 5 mins	Grade Class (Grades 1-4): for any age, any voice. Own choice of one song from any recognised Examination Board's current syllabus.
V37 5 mins	Grade Class (Grades 5 or 6): for any age, any voice. Own choice of one song from any recognised Examination Board's current syllabus.
V38 5 mins	Grade Class (Grades 7 or 8): for any age, any voice. Own choice of one song from any recognised Examination Board's current syllabus.
V39 5 mins	Songwriting Class: Entrants are invited to submit an original score of one song, which must be received by the Festival Secretary by February 8 th 2025. Please ensure that the score is legible. The songwriter need not be the performer, although he/she will be expected to attend the performance.
V40 5 mins	'Unplugged' Class: Own choice of one popular song which includes vocal(s) with acoustic instruments and/or percussion.

PIANO CLASSES

1. 'Repeats' are optional (provided that the playing of a repeated section does not cause the performance to exceed the specified time limit).
2. No performer may play the same piece of music in more than one class, even though the music chosen may satisfy the criteria for two or more classes.
3. Please state the National Curriculum Year of the competitor on the entry form.
4. **A copy of the music must be provided for the adjudicator.**

Notes for Grade Classes:

- 1) Entrants who choose set pieces by Examination Boards (e.g. Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) may NOT choose those pieces marked 'Reprinted by permission -for use only in connection with examiners of the Royal Schools of Music', unless they obtain

WRITTEN PERMISSION from the publisher. The Associated Board does not hold the copyright for these pieces.

- 2) For all Grade classes we advise you use the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Examination's Syllabus for material to perform.
- 3) The lower grades (up to but not including Grade 6) are generally regarded as 'junior' classes; however, competitors of any age may enter these classes.
- 4) Entrants should not be of a higher standard than the grade of the piece chosen.
- 5) **Entrants may play more than one piece per class provided that the total time for playing the pieces does not exceed the specified time limit.**
- 6) **Entrants should ensure that their performance lasts for at least 50% of the time allocated to the class.**

FEES:

Solo Classes (All Ages): £9; Duets: £15 Piano duet with teacher (teacher is not assessed): £9
Please note that we have reduced our fees to £6 per entry for individual entries by children under the age of 11.

P1 3 mins	Pre-grades (Beginners): One or two contrasting pieces (not ragtime or jazz) may be played. An element of both hands together is expected. This class will be given a written adjudication, but no marks will be given.
P2 3 mins	Grade 1 or 2 (not ragtime or jazz): Own choice of music of the appropriate standard: one or two pieces
P3 4 mins	Grade 3 or 4 (not ragtime or jazz): Own choice of music of the appropriate standard: one or two pieces
P4 5 mins	Grade 5 or 6 (not ragtime or jazz): Own choice of music of the appropriate standard: one or two pieces
P5 6 mins	Grade 7 or 8 (not ragtime or jazz): Own choice of music of the appropriate standard.
P6 6 mins	Popular Music (up to NC Year 13): Any arrangement of a popular song, or an extract from a musical or show
P7 6 mins	Popular Music (adults): Any arrangement of a popular song, or an extract from a musical or show.
P8 3 mins	Ragtime, Jazz or Swing (Grade 1 or 2): Own choice of music of the appropriate standard: one or two pieces
P9 4 mins	Ragtime, Jazz or Swing (Grade 3, 4 or 5): Own choice of music of the appropriate standard.

P10 8 mins	Classical Class: Own choice of any work by a composer of the 'Classical Period' (c 1750 to 1820)
P11 8 mins	Romantic Class: Own choice of any work by a composer of the 'Romantic' period (c. 1800-1900).
P12 8 mins	Baroque Class: Own choice of work by any Baroque composer (e.g. Bach, Handel, Purcell, etc).
P13 8 mins	French Impressionist: Own choice of work by any 'Impressionist' composer (e.g. Debussy, Satie, Ravel, etc).
P14 8 mins	Modern piano music: Own choice of any piano work from c. 1910 onwards.
P15 10 mins	Advanced Class: beyond Grade 8 Own choice of one, or two, pieces by any composer(s). The chosen works must be beyond Grade 8 technical standard.

P16 5 mins	Piano duet with a teacher: Own choice of work, the performer will be expected to play the 'primo' part. The overall performance will be judged.
P17 3 mins	Piano duet with another entrant (up to NC Year 6): Own choice of work, both performers will be judged.
P18 5 mins	Piano duet with another entrant (NC Years 7-13): Own choice of work, both performers will be judged.
P19 5 mins	Piano duet with another entrant (Adults): Own choice of work, both performers will be judged.

INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES

This section is open to performers of all ages.

Recorded accompaniment is permitted in these classes. Contact the Entry Secretary to find out the range of technical options available.

1. All classes are deemed to be junior classes up to Grade 6. Thereafter, they are deemed to be advanced classes.
2. Players of any instrument may enter any appropriate class for the standard currently achieved, except in examination grade classes. Entrants should enter the grade class which they are working towards. For all Grade classes we advise you use the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Examination's Syllabus for material to perform.

3. All classes are “own choice” for music to be played.
4. It is desirable to play from memory, if possible.
5. If entrants decide to play unaccompanied, please indicate this on the entry form.
6. **A copy of the music must be provided for the adjudicator** and the accompanist must play from an original and authentic purchased printed copy.

FEES: Junior Beginners: £6; Solo Classes: £9; Duets: £15; Trios: £20; Quartets: £25;

Ensembles of 5 or more performers: £30

Please note that all entrants under the age of 11 will be charged £6 per class.

Ensembles of 5 or more performers under the age of 11: £20

I1 4 mins	Adult Beginners: those who have been playing for less than a year. Own choice of music, performed on any instrument other than piano, with or without accompaniment.
I2 4 mins	Junior Beginners: those who have been playing for less than a year. Own choice of music, performed on any instrument other than piano, with or without accompaniment.
I3 5 mins	Solo performance (up to Grade 4): Own choice of music (other than jazz, swing, blues or ragtime), to be performed on any woodwind, brass, percussion or stringed instrument (except guitar, see classes I11, I12 and I13), with or without accompaniment.
I4 7 mins	Solo performance (Grades 5-8): Own choice of music (other than jazz, swing, blues or ragtime), to be performed on any woodwind, brass, percussion or stringed instrument (except guitar, see classes I11, I12 and I13), with or without accompaniment.
I5 10 mins	Solo performance (above Grade 8): Own choice of music (other than jazz, swing, blues or ragtime), to be performed on any woodwind, brass, percussion or stringed instrument (except guitar, see classes I11, I12 and I13), with or without accompaniment.
I6 8 mins	Jazz, Swing or Blues solo: Own choice of music, to be performed on any instrument, with accompaniment.
I7 3 mins	Duet (up to Grade 4): Own choice of music to be performed on any combination of instruments, other than pianos.
I8 5 mins	Duet (Grade 5-8): Own choice of music to be performed on any combination of instruments, other than pianos.
I9 8 mins	Duet (above Grade 8): Own choice of music to be performed on any combination of instruments, other than pianos.
I10A 8 mins	Junior Instrumental Ensemble (up to NC year 6) Own choice of music for five or more players, including piano if desired.

I10B 8 mins	Senior Instrumental Ensemble: Own choice of music for five or more players, including piano if desired.
I11 4 mins	Plucked instruments (eg guitar, ukulele) (up to Grade3) Own choice of one, or two contrasting, piece(s).
I12 4 mins	Plucked instruments (eg guitar, ukulele) (Grades 4-6) Own choice of one, or two contrasting, piece(s).
I13 5 mins	Plucked Instruments (eg guitar, ukulele) (Grades 7-8) Own choice of one, or two contrasting, piece(s).
I14 5 mins	World Music class: Own choice of non-standard/non-Western music.

SPEECH AND DRAMA CLASSES

Rules for all classes

1. Copyright agreement: Rochester and North Kent Festival has entered into an agreement through the British and International Federation of Festivals with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society. This means that competitors do not have to seek copyright permission for any poetry, prose or solo dramatic items performed, to a time limit of 10 minutes. Authors will be directly reimbursed as a consequence of their work being performed at the festival. However, duologues and group dramatic items are not covered by this agreement, and copyright permission for items by a published playwright should be sought by performers at the time of entry.
2. Solo dramatic items must be announced with title and author at the time of performance to qualify for copyright indemnity, and the competitor must not change the words or gender of the character.
3. Photocopying of verse and prose: An agreement has been reached with the Copyright Licensing Agency that a copy of own choice poetry, verse or prose may be made for the adjudicator's use.

Additional notes for Drama classes:

4. Performers may request a table and chair(s) to be available for the performance. Small hand props are allowed, and simple costumes can be worn over the clothes that the competitors are wearing.
5. A copy of the text (where relevant) must be submitted to the Festival Secretary by 8th February 2025.
6. Please refer to rule 5 (in Conditions and Rules of Entry) regarding time limits.
7. An introduction, not exceeding one minute, must be given to set the scene.
8. Please note that schools' entries will, with prior permission from the festival, be able to film their students for exam assessment and to go towards the practical facets of their examinations (GCSE, A level or BTEC, for example). Any school staff wishing to take advantage of this opportunity must contact the Festival Secretary by Saturday 8th February 2025
9. **A copy of the poem, speech, extract or scene must be provided for the adjudicator.**

IMPORTANT: All Verse Speaking Classes must be performed from memory.

FEES:

All Solo Classes: £9

Please note that we have reduced our fees for individual entries by children under the age of 11. The fee will be £6 per class.

Two performers: £15; Three performers: £20; Four Performers: £25; Groups of five to ten performers: £30; Groups of eleven or more performers: £40

For classes D3A, D3B, D3C, D4A, D4B, D5A, D5B, please see the class descriptors for information about fees.

SPEECH and DRAMA CLASSES for Children and Young People

S1A 2 mins	Verse speaking (NC Years 1-6) Own choice of verse on the theme of Animals.
S1B 3 mins	Verse speaking (NC Years 7-9): Own choice of verse of the theme of The Environment.
S1C 4 mins	Verse speaking (NC Years 10-13): Own choice of verse on the theme of Injustice.
S2A 2 mins	Reading Aloud (NC years 1-6) Read aloud a passage from any fiction book by Roald Dahl
S2B 3 mins	Reading Aloud (NC Years 7-9): Read aloud a passage from any fiction book by Gillian Cross
S2C 4 mins	Reading Aloud (NC Years 10-13): Read aloud a passage from any fiction book by Malorie Blackman
S3A 2 mins	Religious Reading (NC Years 1-6): Own choice of reading from a Holy Book of any faith. Any version of the chosen Holy Book is acceptable, but readings must be in English.
S3B 3 mins	Religious Reading (NC Years 7-9): Own choice of reading from a Holy Book of any faith. Any version of the chosen Holy Book is acceptable, but readings must be in English.
S3C 4 mins	Religious Reading (NC Years 10-13): Own choice of reading from a Holy Book of any faith. Any version of the chosen Holy Book is acceptable, but readings must be in English.
S4A 4 mins	Public Speaking (up to NC Year 9) Entrants may speak on any topic, which must be stated on the entry form. Notes are not allowed, and the entrant must speak from memory.
S4B 5 mins	Public Speaking (NC Years 10-13): Entrants may speak on any topic, which must be stated on the entry form. Notes are not allowed, and the entrant must speak from memory.

S5A 2 mins	Write and Perform your own Poem (NC Years 1-6) Performers to compose their own poem on any theme. This must be sent to the Festival Secretary by Saturday 8 th February. Entrants must perform their own work. Language and content must not give offence.
S5B 3 mins	Write and Perform your own Poem (NC Years 7-9) Performers to compose their own poem on any theme. This must be sent to the Festival Secretary by Saturday 8 th February. Entrants must perform their own work. Language and content must not give offence.
S5C 4 mins	Write and perform your own poem (NC Years 10-13) Performers to compose their own poem on any theme. This must be sent to the Festival Secretary by Saturday 8 th February. Entrants must perform their own work. Language and content must not give offence.

D1A 3 mins	Audition pieces (NC Years 1-6): Own choice of solo dramatic performance Language and content must not give offence
D1B 4 mins	Audition pieces (NC Years 7-9): Own choice of solo dramatic performance Language and content must not give offence
D1C 5 mins	Audition pieces (NC Years 10-13): Own choice of solo dramatic performance Language and content must not give offence
D2A 4 mins	Shakespeare Speech (NC Years 7-9): Own choice of speech from any play by William Shakespeare.
D2B 4 mins	Shakespeare Speech (NC Years 10-13) Own choice of speech from any play by William Shakespeare.
D3A 10 mins	Acted scenes for small groups-up to four players (NC Years 3-6) Performance for any number of players, from two upwards, of an extract from any play, which can be one that is devised by the performers themselves. Fee: £10
D3B 10 mins	Acted scenes for small groups-up to four players (NC Years 7-9): Performance of an extract from any play. Fee: £15
D3C 10 mins	Acted scenes for small groups-up to four players (NC Years 10-13): Performance of an extract from any play. Fee: £15
D4A 10 mins	Acted scenes for large groups of five or more players (NC Years 7-9) Performance of an extract from any play. Fee: £25
D4B 10 mins	Acted scenes for large groups of five or more players (NC Years 10-13) Performance of an extract from any play. Fee: £25

D5A 10 mins	Acted scenes for groups – devised drama (NC Years 7-9): Performances for any number of players, from two upwards, of an original composition by one or more of the competitors. Language and content must not give offence. Fees: £15 up to 4 players; £25 for 5 or more players
D5B 10 mins	Acted scenes for groups – devised drama (NC Years 10-13): See above Fees: £15 up to 4 players; £25 for 5 or more players

SPEECH and DRAMA CLASSES for Adults

S6 4 mins	Verse Speaking Own choice of verse on any theme.
S7 4 mins	Humorous Verse Own choice on any subject. Language or content must not give offence.
S8 4 mins	Narrative Prose Read aloud a passage from any fiction book.
S9 4 mins	Religious Reading Own choice of reading from a Holy Book of any faith. Any version of the chosen Holy Book is acceptable, but readings must be in English.
S10 4 mins	Public Speaking (Adults): Entrants may speak on any topic, which must be stated on the entry form. No notes are allowed, and the entrant must speak from memory.
D6 4 mins	Audition pieces (adults): Own choice of solo dramatic performance. Language and content must not give offence.
D7 4 mins	Shakespeare Speech (adults): Own choice of speech from any play by William Shakespeare.
D8 10 mins	Acted scenes for groups (adults): Performances for any number of players, from two upwards, of an extract from any play.



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Be a part of something really worthwhile!

Our festival gives people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to display and expand their talent for a huge range of styles of music, speech and drama.

There is a great “buzz” in the air on festival day, but there is also a huge reward in being part of making it happen, and you can be a part of that. How big a part you play in making this event happen is entirely up to you: no contribution of time or effort is too small to be received with heartfelt thanks.

Don't have much time available? Perhaps you could come along on the day before Festival Day and help with setting up. Good with words? Perhaps write us a blog. Good organiser? Our committee always needs such people, and you don't have to attend loads of meetings.

Good with people? Our stewards work three to a room to help things run smoothly, so they are part of a mutually supportive team, no one is dropped in at the deep end, and the atmosphere is relaxed and fun. **If you would like to be considered as a steward, please contact the Festival Secretary:**

Mrs Janet Wilkinson
22 Friston Way
Rochester
ME1 2UU
rnkmdfestival1@virginmedia.com

Conditions and Rules of Entry: Please read carefully and thoroughly

1. THE FESTIVAL

- a) The festival is for AMATEUR performers only. An amateur is someone who does not derive their livelihood (or a substantial part) from the branch of performance, defined by the class title, in which they seek to enter the festival. This rule also applies to ensembles.
- b) Professionals are allowed to take part as conductors and accompanists in all classes.
- c) For the sake of clarification an 'adult' class should not be interpreted or mistaken for an 'open' class.
- d) Please note that all junior classes are for boys or girls, and all adult classes are for male or female, unless the class name or class rules indicate otherwise.

2. FESTIVAL ENTRY

- a) The closing date for entries is **Saturday 8th February 2025**
- b) Late entries will only be accepted with a reasonable explanation and will incur an extra fee of £2 per class.
- c) An entry form will be sent with this syllabus and should be completed in full, with titles, composers/authors and performance times included. Entries must be received by the **Festival and Entry Secretary** by the closing date.
- d) It is advisable to keep a copy of your entry, and teachers entering multiple entries may photocopy the entry form (please use a separate form for each entrant). The total fees for each class must accompany the form. Receipts will not be sent unless requested.
- e) No person will be allowed to enter more than once in any one solo class. Similarly, no ensemble or group may enter a class more than once. However, any individual may compete more than once with another group. **No performance piece may be entered in more than one class.**

3. NC Year

This is the National Curriculum year of the performer **on the day of the festival**. As NC Year 13 includes 18 year olds, adults are deemed to be 19 years of age and above. The NC Year must be stated on the entry form, or "adult" for entrants aged 19 or over.

4. PERFORMANCE STANDARD

For all classes, the standard entered should not be lower than the performer's general capability, which may be higher than that achieved by examination. Entry into a grade above as a means of development is to be encouraged. However, entry into a lower grade is not acceptable. In ensemble classes, performers with different grades achieved are expected to compete at the higher level. Please note it is expected that performers do not repeat the same performance items from the previous year, because they have 'own choice' for most classes. **Please enter something which you have not performed in the previous three festivals.**

5. PERFORMANCE TIME

The time limit shown in this syllabus for each class is the maximum allowed for each performance. For "own choice" classes, choose pieces that will last at least half of the time allowance but ensure you do not exceed the time limit. Performance time is deemed to start at the beginning of the performer's introduction. On Festival Day, the timetable will include extra time for the adjudicator to write his/her remarks on the mark sheets, give feedback, and present trophies.

6. CHOSEN PIECES ON ENTRY FORMS

Please note that a copy of the performance piece must be handed to the adjudicator when performers are about to perform. **Also, details of the chosen performance piece, i.e. the title and composer or author, must be included on the entry form which must be sent to the Entry Secretary by Saturday 8th February 2025.**

7. ADJUDICATORS

The adjudicators have the right to stop and mark any performance when the time limit has been reached. Exceeding the time limit may lead to disqualification. The adjudicator's decision will be regarded as final. No performer, teacher or interested party may discuss any aspect of the festival with an adjudicator before, during or after classes, except at the invitation of an adjudicator.

8. THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO:

- a) refuse any proposed entry regarded as unsuitable for that class.
- b) restrict the number of entries to a level that can be dealt with adequately.
- c) appoint replacement or additional adjudicators and to alter, modify, or cancel any of the arrangements detailed in this syllabus.
- d) withhold trophies in any class where, in the opinion of the adjudicator, a sufficiently high standard of performance has not been achieved.
- e) stop and disqualify any performer(s) observed by festival staff to be receiving coaching in any shape or form during their performance.
- f) merge classes in order to ensure efficient programming.
- g) amalgamate classes that have only one entry: performers affected will be notified, should this occur, and will be offered the option of withdrawal, but we regret that entry fees cannot be refunded.

9. COPYING MUSIC

a) Adjudicators' copies:

Performers must provide a copy and hand it to the adjudicator before the beginning of the performance item. Performers are reminded that it is illegal to photocopy (or copy by any other means) works which are copyright, without permission of the copyright holder. The festival and the adjudicator(s) may refuse copied items where the competitor cannot produce evidence of permission to copy.

A Revised Code of Practice, issued on behalf of the Music Publishers Association, authorises the copying of any work, published in volumes only, for the adjudicator. The accompanist must only play from an authentic purchased copy (or legal photocopy). The Music Publishers Association's website can be found at <http://www.mpaonline.org.uk> and you can telephone 0207 580 0126.

In a few publications by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music the phrase *"Reprinted by permission for use only in connection with the Examinations of the Royal Schools of Music..."* appears at the bottom of the page. You must obtain permission from the copyright owner before performing these pieces at the festival.

b) Copying Verse/Poetry and Prose:

A copy of the chosen text must be provided for the adjudicator by the performer. The Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) encourages respect for copyright licenses. A CLA licence allows copying from

most books, periodicals and journals published in the UK. This does not apply to music. Festivals may copy as many items as they wish, but under the CLA standard licence they may only make up to nine copies of each item.

10. ACCOMPANISTS

Performers must provide their own accompanists. You must enter the name of your accompanist on the entry form. Entries will not be accepted without this information. It is the responsibility of the performer, or teacher of a performer, to contact an accompanist to arrange rehearsal time before the entry form is submitted. A photocopy of the chosen piece should be sent to the accompanist by the date requested by the accompanist, but, in any case, as soon as possible. Accompanists will charge an appropriate fee for the amount of rehearsal time needed, plus the performance time on the day of the festival. This may be reflected in the level of the class entered, and the amount of preparation time required by the accompanist to rehearse with the performer. Please recognise that an agreement, once made, should be honoured, including any rehearsal and preparation time that the accompanist has incurred at any stage, if the performer has to withdraw on the day of performance.

Official Recommended Accompanist:

Janet Stone: janetstone24@hotmail.com (Medway)

11. PROGRAMMES AND TICKETS

The programme will be sent to performers by email about three weeks before the festival date. Performers should collect their tickets, on the day of the festival, from the **Reception Desk**; these will have the performer's name, class number and time of the class written on them. **Performers will not be admitted to any class without their tickets being presented to the Door Steward.**

12. TROPHIES, MEDALLIONS and CERTIFICATES

Trophies awarded in the 2025 Festival must be returned to the **Entry Secretary** by **March 1st 2026**. Please telephone the **Entry Secretary** first (contact details are inside the front cover) before returning any trophies. The festival cannot undertake to collect them from you. Please ensure trophies are carefully protected from damage and are clean when returned. If there is room on the trophy, performers are allowed to have their name professionally engraved at their own expense. Medallions remain with the winners. Every entrant will be awarded a certificate, which can be collected from the Festival Office. They will be available about half an hour after the class has finished.

13. MARKS

The Marking Scheme is as follows:

Marks awarded	Marking Band	Descriptor
65-69	Developing	A performance demonstrating an awareness of technical skills, requiring more consistency and artistry
70-74	Progressing	A performance showing development of technique and/or communication and commitment
75-79	Merit	A competent performance showing some artistic awareness and/or technical ability
80-84	Commended	A convincing performance, technically and artistically, with increasing stylistic and communication skills
85 to 89	Honours	An excellent performance, demonstrating fluent technical and artistic skills with emerging individuality
90-94	Outstanding	An impressive performance technically and artistically, displaying spontaneity and clear individuality
95+	Exceptional	A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic individuality

Please note that trophies and medallions will only be awarded to class winners achieving 85 marks or Honours and above.

14. ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC

Members of the public may be admitted to all competition rooms during the day.

Charges for admission:

Festival Day: Adults: All-day admission £9; Family ticket: £9 for first adult, £1 for each extra adult

Morning or afternoon session only £5; Family ticket: £5 for first adult, £1 for each extra adult

Children (under 18): No Charge.

Championship Concert:

Adults: £5.00 each. **Children (under 18):** No Charge.

Please note that there is no charge for Championship Concert performers.

15. THE CHAMPIONSHIP CONCERT

To be held on: Saturday 10th May 2025

- a) **Winners of all classes who attain a minimum of 87 marks (Distinction)** are eligible to perform again at the Championship Concert and compete again for further trophies.
- b) **Winners of music classes:** If you take part in the Championship Concert, you will need your accompanist to play for you. Please make sure your accompanist will be available. If this is not the case, please notify the **Festival Secretary** as soon as possible, so they can assist in finding an alternative accompanist.

Please note:

If you are invited to perform in the Championship Concert and are unable to attend, it is imperative that you inform the Festival Secretary as soon as possible, so that the programme can be arranged.

16. COMPLAINTS

Complaints or objections relating to the festival will only be considered if submitted in writing to the **Festival Secretary**. The address can be found at the beginning of this syllabus.

17. THE DECISION of the committee on all matters arising out of, or not specifically covered in, these regulations, is final.

18. RECORDING

The use of tape and other recorders, cameras, and video equipment (including mobile phones) by any member of the audience is not permitted.

However, schools' entries will, with prior permission from the festival, be able to film their students for exam assessment and to go towards the practical facets of their examinations (GCSE, A level or BTEC, for example). Any school staff wishing to take advantage of this opportunity must contact the Festival Secretary by Saturday 8th February 2025.

Policies of the Rochester and North Kent Music and Drama Festival

Cancellation Policy

The Covid Pandemic had an enormous impact on our lives in 2020 and 2021 and cultural events, in particular, were very badly affected. This festival was postponed, rearranged and eventually cancelled. In the event of a future cancellation of the Festival, due to circumstances beyond our control, entrants would have the following options:

- a) "Bank" their entry fee, as payment for participation in a future festival
- b) Donate their entry fee
- c) Request a refund but allow the festival to keep a portion of the fee (eg 25%) to help with ongoing costs
- d) Request a full refund.

Equal Opportunities Policy

The Constitution of the Festival specifically states that the festival is open to anyone who wishes to perform and compete and who meets the requirements of Rule 1. Restrictions as to age or standard in some classes are clearly stated.

We ask that if a performer has a disability or special educational need, and requires assistance, they should inform the **Entry Secretary** at the time of entry. This is so we can aim to meet the specific needs of that person.

Rochester and North Kent Music and Drama Festival Safeguarding Policy

Rochester and North Kent Music & Drama Festival (Registered Charity No 287764) is a competitive festival, run by volunteers and registered with the Charity Commission. It is a member of the British and International Federation of Festivals and has adopted the Federation Child Protection Policy.

The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech works for amateur festivals everywhere to help create thousands of educational performance opportunities for children and young people each year.

The Federation, and its member festivals, are 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 our Board of Trustees, paid staff, adjudicator members, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of the Federation and its member festivals.

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 in the event that 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 Federation will review this policy each year in November in line with Safe Network Guidance, or sooner in light of any changes in legislation or guidance. All changes will be communicated to our member festivals in time for the start of the new festival year.

Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone

The Federation and its member festivals use the following policies and procedures to create **Safer Festivals** for everyone:

1. A single, definitive Child Protection Policy adopted by all Federation Festivals.
2. One, or more, designated Festival Safeguarding Officers (FSO) appointed for each Federation Festival. The FSO for the Rochester and North Kent Music and Drama Festival is:

Dr D.C. Hubbard who will be available via the **Reception Desk** on Festival Day.

3. Best practice advice in the form of **Safe Working Practice** and **Festival Child Protection** leaflets, with training for all festival staff and volunteers, including clear reporting procedures for anyone with a concern about a child.

4. Appropriate recruitment and induction procedures for all new festival staff and volunteers responsible for providing safe environments for everyone attending or performing at a Federation Festival.
5. All festival personnel wear an official RNKMDF badge. All teachers, parents, guardians and carers are asked to report all incidents of any nature to anyone wearing a RNKMDF badge, or to go directly to the Festival Office, if required. All reported incidents will be handled in accordance with the **Safe Working Practice** and **Festival Child Protection** best practice advice. In addition, we will ensure the availability of a quiet area/room where concerns can be expressed in private.
6. For the duration of a festival all teachers, parents, guardians and carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/pupils. If they are unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibilities to an identified adult and ensure that their children/pupils are aware of the identity and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all festival venues, practice and changing areas that may be provided. The festival cannot take responsibility for any property left unattended.
7. **No unauthorised photography, audio or video recording of children and young people is allowed at our festivals. Where parents, guardians or carers do not wish photographs to be taken at all, then the responsible adult attending should ensure that their child is not included in official photographs. There is a section on the entry form for permission for official photographs.**
8. Some children and vulnerable adults may have specific needs in order to take part. If this is the case we ask the responsible teachers, parents, guardians and carers to contact the festival organisers prior to arrival. The festival actively seeks, wherever possible, to meet these needs but must know beforehand in order to prepare support, or to advise that help cannot be provided on this occasion. **There is a section on the entry form for special needs.**
9. The Festival's 'Child Protection Policy' and approach to 'Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone' is published explicitly in our syllabus, programme and website. By completing and signing the entry form all parents, guardians, carers and teachers of competitors under 18 (or vulnerable adults of any age) confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the competitors to take part in the festival. **Without consent, entry to the festival cannot be accepted.**

