



Stratford & East London Music Festival

Composition Syllabus

This will be an entirely online discipline. Composers are asked to submit pieces of work in PDF format AND mp3 format. Electronic or very legible handwritten copies are acceptable, or a lead sheet with words and chords if this is all that is available.

The music must be your own original, unpublished composition. You must be an amateur composer. Your piece must not exceed 10 minutes to perform.

The closing date for receipt of entries is Friday 2 February 2024.

Adjudication will be on Zoom and entrants will be notified of the date. After the adjudication, entrants will be emailed a mark sheet with the adjudicator's comments and a certificate.

Adjudicator

Ben Costello

BMus PGDip MA FRSA FISM

Ben is a freelance musical director, singing coach and adjudicator, working internationally. He is also Artistic Director of Thames Concerts, Chorus Master for the Leith Hill Music Festival, Founding Director of Kingston Chamber Singers, a lecturer in musical theatre at the University of Portsmouth and a singing teacher at Tiffin Girls' School. A generalist music adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals, he judges at festivals throughout the UK and overseas. Ben is also a busy accompanist, working with a variety of singers and instrumentalists in a range of performing environments.

Born and based in London, Ben trained initially as a flautist, before majoring in piano, singing and conducting. His early career included répétiteur work for London opera companies and ensembles including the London Symphony Orchestra. He is a Liveryman and Court Member of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, Chairman of the Company's Jazz Committee, and Chairman of the Company's prestigious musical direction scholarship. Outside music he is a keen motorcyclist.

Ben is pleased to be returning to adjudicate at Stratford (this will be his fourth visit to the festival!) and wishes all the performers every success with their music-making.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
701 A piece for choir or solo voice. Entrants to be over 16. You may write your piece with or without accompaniment.	16 and over	Up to 10 mins	£10.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
702 A piece for choir or solo voice. Entrants to be under 16. You may write your piece with or without accompaniment.	15 and under	Up to 10 mins	£8.00
703 A piece for instrumental ensemble or solo instrument. Entrants to be over 16 You may write your piece with or without accompaniment.	16 and over	Up to 10 mins	£10.00
704 A piece for instrumental ensemble or solo instrument. Entrants to be under 16 You may write your piece with or without accompaniment.	15 and under	Up to 10 mins	£8.00
705 A piece written to showcase a specific ethnicity. Entrants to be over 16 You may write your piece with or without accompaniment.	16 and over	Up to 10 mins	£10.00
706 A piece written to showcase a specific ethnicity. Entrants to be under 16 You may write your piece with or without accompaniment.	15 and under	Up to 10 mins	£8.00